1914.19

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER IMPROVED, ILLUSTRATED by PLANS.

To which is prefixed,

A Diſcourſe on Publick Magnificence;

WITH

Obſervations on the State of Arts and Artiſts in this Kingdom, wherein the Study of the Polite Arts is recommended as neceſſary to a liberal Education:

Concluded by

Some Propoſals relative to Places not laid down in the Plans.

By *JOHN GWYNN.*

——like an entrance into a large city, after a diſtant proſpect. Remotely, we ſee nothing but ſpires of temples, and turrets of palaces, and imagine it the reſidence of ſplendor, grandeur, and magnificence; but, when we have paſſed the gates, we find it perplexed with narrow paſſages, diſgraced with deſpicable cottages, embaraſſed with obſtructions, and clouded with ſmoke. Rambler.

LONDON:

Printed for the Author.

Sold by Mr. Dodſley, and at Mr. Dalton's Print-Warehouſe in Pall-Mall, Mr. Bathoe in the Strand, Mr. Davies in Ruſſel-Street, Covent-Garden, and by Mr. Longman in Pater-noſter-Row.

MDCCLXVI.

TO THE

KING.

SIR,

THE patronage of works which have a tendency towards advancing the happineſs of mankind, naturally belongs to great Princes; and publick good, in which publick elegance is compriſed, has ever been the object of your Majeſty's regard.

In the following pages your Majeſty, I flatter myſelf, will find, that I have endeavoured at extenſive and general uſefulneſs. Knowing, therefore, your Majeſty's early attention to the polite arts, and more particular affection for the ſtudy of architecture, I was encouraged to hope that the work which I now preſume to

lay before your Majeſty, might be thought not unworthy your Royal Favour; and that the protection which your Majeſty always affords to thoſe who mean well, may be extended to,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's

moſt dutiful ſubject,

and moſt obedient

and moſt humble ſervant,

JOHN GWYNN.

PREFACE.

IN the obſervations annexed to a ſmall plan (reduced from that of Sir Chriſtopher Wren's for rebuilding the city of London after the fire in 1666*.) the author of the following work ſufficiently intimated the neceſſity of a general plan of the whole capital, improved and divided into proper diſtricts, the execution of which improvements he propoſed ſhould be put under the direction of fit and able perſons, who ſhould be empowered by authority, to regulate the ſcattered and confuſed appearance they make, to reſtore the ruinated parts to beauty, and fix the proper mode of new improvements; by which means not only the value of private property would be conſiderably increaſed, but theſe improvements become conducive to health as well as publick convenience.

In conſequence of this propoſal, and ſoon after its publication, the author actually began a plan of ſuch improvements as appeared to him beautiful, neceſſary and uſeful, but other avocations prevented his carrying it on at that time, and it has been a matter of ſurprize to him that no one has undertaken ſo uſeful a work in ſo long a time, eſpecially as the rage of building has been carried to ſo great a height for ſeveral years paſt, as to have increaſed this metropolis in an aſtoniſhing manner. For want of ſuch a publick direction, thoſe very buildings which might have been eaſily rendered

* Publiſhed in the year 1749.

its

its greateſt ornament, are a melancholy proof of the neceſſity there was of adopting a well regulated plan. The violent paſſion for building having continued to increaſe, and it appearing that no ſuch plan was likely to be undertaken by any body elſe, the author reſumed his original intention, and he flatters himſelf it will not even at this time be unſerviceable or unacceptable to the publick. He has therefore publiſhed four plates of the principal part of his original deſign, and if they ſhould meet with approbation his intention is to render it a compleat work, by extending his thoughts to every part of the whole city and ſuburbs.

After the unaccountable treatment the noble plan of Sir Chriſtopher Wren met with from the intereſted views of ignorant, obſtinate, deſigning men, (notwithſtanding it had the ſanction of the King and Parliament) who by rejecting it did an irreparable injury to the city of London, the author cannot hope to ſee a ſcheme ſo much inferior to that, adopted in the manner he could wiſh; he doubts not but it will by many be treated as Utopian, a work of ſupererogation, and that the old cry of private property and the infringment on liberty will be objected and urged with the greateſt vehemence, in oppoſition to the good effects he propoſes. In defence therefore of his deſign, and in order to obviate, as much as poſſible, every objection which may be made to it, the author declares and hopes that every thinking perſon will agree with him, that the future good ariſing from the major part of his propoſal will greatly overbalance the preſent evil. For although people are often clamorous againſt the preſent expence, as if the money laid out for ſuch purpoſes was totally

ſunk

ſunk and annihilated, if they would but conſider, it is only the changing of hands and circulating ſo much dead money, that, perhaps, was otherwiſe uſeleſs to its poſſeſſor, and may probably in time return to its original owner; the inconvenience then becomes only temporary, and its application is a very conſiderable advantage to the public. It is very certain that no publick good ever was propoſed to which intereſted individuals have not objected, but it certainly does not follow, that for this reaſon publick good is not to be attended to at all. We are not without inſtances of villages, nay whole towns, having been removed for the convenience and emolument of private perſons; then why not adopt the improvements here laid down, (at leaſt ſuch as are moſt neceſſary) wherein the good of the community is ſo eſſentially concerned? The fire of London was undoubtedly a moſt deplorable evil to the ſufferers, and yet no body will deny, that (bad as the preſent ſtate of the city is) it was productive of very great advantages. For the ſame reaſon, the making rivers navigable and publick roads convenient, are liable to equal objections; ſuch works are certainly often injurious to individuals, but their utility is a publick benefit, and poſterity, as well as thoſe who carry ſuch improvements into execution, will reap conſiderable advantages from them; but for the further illuſtration of this propoſition the reader is referred to the following diſcourſe on the utility and advantage of public magnificence; the reaſons which are there given for the neceſſity of its being adopted, it is hoped will plead a ſufficient excuſe for the liberties which are taken with reſpect to private property.

The

The author is aware that it will appear upon the firſt inſpection of his plan, that notwithſtanding he has complained that the metropolis is already over built, he himſelf has laid down the plans of many more new buildings. To obviate this objection, the reader is deſired to conſider the many internal improvements which he has propoſed; and the neceſſity of providing dwellings for thoſe perſons who would be obliged to remove in conſequence of ſuch conſiderable alterations; the greateſt error that has been committed, is that of extending the metropolis to too great a length; nor can we ſay where it will ſtop, if builders are ſuffered to proceed thus wildly without direction, as they have hitherto done; but if attention was paid to the widening rather than the lengthening the town, it would certainly render the whole more compact, be more convenient for the inhabitants in every advantage of ſituation, and conſequently equally healthy and commodious.

In ſettling a plan of large ſtreets for the dwellings of the rich, it will be found neceſſary to allot ſmaller ſpaces contiguous, for the habitations of uſeful and laborious people, whoſe dependance on their ſuperiors requires ſuch a diſtribution; and by adhering to this principal a political advantage will reſult to the nation; as this intercourſe ſtimulates their induſtry, improves their morals by example, and prevents any particular part from being the habitation of the indigent alone, to the great detriment of private property.

The author naturally ſuppoſes that many of the propoſed improvements will be looked upon by ſome as extravagant and viſionary, and therefore had better been totally

totally ſuppreſſed; but to obviate, in ſome ſort, the force of ſuch objection, he begs leave to obſerve, that they are not laid down as poſitive improvements to be made at this time, but rather what ought to have been attended to by the original builders and proprietors of lands; and conſequently, as a caution to all ſuch as may have the conducting and directing future buildings; that regularity, convenience and propriety, may hereafter take place of unſkilfulneſs and diſorder.

It is not improbable that ſome perſons will alſo think the ſeveral ſchemes propoſed are impracticable, or that they may be of little or no utility if put into execution; in this caſe, the author, however partial he may be to his own deſigns, will be much obliged to any one who will point out his errors, or give the publick ſome more uſeful and practicable plans of his own, as he is firmly purſuaded that a work of this kind is abſolutely neceſſary, and cannot help thinking that if his own hints, or thoſe of others upon the ſame ſubject, are not timely attended to, that publick negligence will unavoidably produce publick deformity, and publick deformity muſt certainly produce publick diſgrace.

Internal improvements ſhould certainly be firſt attended to before ſo many new foundations are ſuffered to be laid; as it is highly improper and prejudicial to go on building in one place, to the utter ruin of others; and this often without the leaſt connection with what is already built.

In the preſent ſtate of building, the fineſt part of the town (where only real improvement can be hoped,) is left to the mercy of capricious, ignorant perſons, and the vaſt number of buildings, now carrying on, are

only ſo many convincing proofs of the neceſſity of adopting the following, or ſome better hints, in order to convince the world that blundering is not the only characteriſtic of Engliſh builders.

One inconvenience deſerves particular notice. Some ſtreets that would naturally open into the country are ſhut up and darkened by houſes built croſs them at the end next the fields. This ought to be avoided, as well for the ſake of convenience as of elegance, in the ſtreets which ſhall be raiſed on the ground yet unoccupied, between the preſent buildings and the new road from Paddington to Iſlington, which in this work has always been conſidered as the great boundary or line for reſtraining and limiting the rage of building. A ſtop ought alſo to be put to the practice of erecting irregular groups of houſes at the extremities of the town, an evil which if continued will make this metropolis more irregular if poſſible than it is. The act of parliament directs, that no building be erected for the future within fifty feet of the New-Road, but ſome people, in order to evade this judicious clauſe, have ingeniouſly contrived to build houſes at that diſtance, but then to make themſelves amends they take care to occupy the intermediate ſpace, which was intended to diſencumber the road, by a garden, the wall of which comes cloſe upon it, and entirely defeats the original intention. This practice, and the mean appearance of the backs of the houſes*, offices, and hovels, will in time render the approaches to the capital ſo many ſcenes of confuſion and deformity, extremely unbecoming the

* An example of this abſurdity evidently appears in that heap of buildings lately erected from Oxford-Road to Hyde-Park Corner, whoſe back-fronts are ſeen from the Park.

character

character of a great and opulent city. Certainly the fronts of all buildings ſhould be as conſpicuous as poſſible, and therefore the before-mentioned practice is abſurd; on the contrary, if the environs were properly regulated by a judicious diſpoſition, a moſt elegant line would be formed round the metropolis; and the adjacent fields compoſe a beautiful lawn, and make an agreeable finiſh to the extream parts of the town.

Upon the whole, if among the number of improvements propoſed, any one of them ſhould be judged worthy of being put into execution, it will in ſome meaſure recompence the trouble and fatigue the author has undergone in the proſecution of this work; and he will think himſelf ſufficiently repaid in finding that he has not been labouring in vain, or given an erroneous opinion of what he thinks might or ought to have been done.

The ſtate of the arts and artiſts in this kingdom being in a great meaſure dependant upon publick works of magnificence and elegance, it was judged not improper or foreign to the preſent deſign, to give ſome account of them. How the author has ſucceeded he cannot pretend to determine; he has carefully avoided giving offence by becoming particular, and as he has avoided beſtowing perſonal encomiums, ſo he has likewiſe avoided perſonal cenſure; and as he entered into this part of the work with a good deſign, he hopes it will be a ſufficient apology to ſay, that it was well intended.

The author concludes this preface with a grateful acknowledgment to thoſe friends who have been publick-ſpirited enough to aſſiſt him in the proſecution of this work, without which it muſt have been much more imperfect than it is.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

INTRODUCTION.

Page.

A Diſcourſe on Publick Magnificence, 1

Obſervations on the State of Arts and Artiſts in Great-Britain, 22

Explanation of the Plates, 76.

Some Propoſals relative to Places not laid down in the Plans. 111.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN hiſtorians give us the riſe, progreſs and declenſion of any ſtate, they generally relate its fall to have proceeded from ſome political error in government, or from luxury; a very vague and undetermined expreſſion, which if it ſignifies exceſſes created by inordinate deſires, ſtimulated by riches, has been juſtly marked as the vice of a nation. But if in the place of it we ſubſtitute delicacy, we ſhall find it the great ſource of the liberal arts, and of every improvement not immediately neceſſary to life.

Thus it becomes a promoter of induſtry and ingenious labour, and finds employment for thoſe ſuperfluous hands that can be ſpared from agriculture, *&c.* and while the hand of affluence thus affords the means of ſubſiſtence to the ingenious artiſan, it finds employment for itſelf, without which life would become a burden.

Suppoſe a colony of emigrants firſt ſettling in any climate, the calls of nature are few. Building huts, and tillage, are the firſt objects of their attention; and their cloathing the ſkins of beaſts. Theſe ſupply them with food, and defend them from the inclemencies of the ſeaſons, until encreaſing in numbers, and their improvements advancing equally, their lands produce more than they conſume, and they are able to ſupply the wants of their neighbours. This introduces commerce and navigation. The demands for exportation ſtimulate the manufacturer, wealth ariſes, and artificial wants encreaſe; the rich inhabitants look out for the means of eaſe, pleaſure and diſtinction; theſe produce the polite arts, and the original formation of huts is now converted into architecture; painting and ſculpture contribute to the decoration, and ſtamp that value on canvas and marble which is acknowledged by taſte and diſcern-

ment, and mark thoſe neceſſary diſtinctions between the palace and the cottage.

Publick magnificence may be conſidered as a political and moral advantage to every nation; politically, from the intercourſe with foreigners expending vaſt ſums on our curioſities and productions; morally, as it tends to promote induſtry, to ſtimulate invention and to excite emulation in the polite and liberal arts; for thoſe induſtrious hands who find agriculture, *&c.* overſtocked with labourers, naturally fall into thoſe employments where they may expect more encouragement, in proportion, as more ingenuity is required.

We all know that the chief ſources of wealth to many fallen ſtates, are the remains of their ancient magnificence, and the conſtant confluence of foreigners to thoſe places ſupply the deficiencies of manufactures or commerce.

The ſums expended by foreigners may be conſidered as a laudable tax on their curioſity, whoſe ideas being excited by fame, can never be ſatisfied but by occular demonſtration. And had we more ample means of gratifying that thirſt after novelty and amuſement, numbers would continually flock over to our nation, as we continually do to theirs.

Let us conſider the man of affluence, actuated by that beneficent ſpirit, the mere delight of doing good, and rendering himſelf acceptable to his Creator; he is furniſhed with the means, and by employing the ingenious and laborious artizans, adds to the neceſſity of labour, the deſire of excellence: A villa riſes, an eſtate is improved, and a manufacture eſtabliſhed; theſe create the proper diſtinction between the Prince and the peaſant, the merchant and the workman; theſe characterize the genius of a nation, mark the æra of its excellence, raiſe it from obſcurity to fame, and fix it as the ſtandard of taſte to lateſt poſterity.

In ſpeaking of the ignorance of early times it is natural to charge them with want of genius; but the natural qualities of every nation are alike. The Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, who have made ſuch a great progreſs in the ſciences, were not actuated by ſupernatural cauſes, or any innate principles in their original formation; the mind is a mere blank, but capable of receiving ſuch im-

impreſſions as cuſtom, education, or any other relative cauſe ſhall make upon it. It increaſes in vigour, according to its ſenſibility of ſuch application, and, by degrees, ſo far exalts its powers, that it ſeems to obtain new faculties in ſeeing, hearing and feeling thoſe objects to which it is moſt familiarized; it perceives defects and excellencies which the ignorant and unexperienced never apprehend. The man becomes eminent in his profeſſion in proportion as his perception is more or leſs acute; and you eaſily diſtinguiſh the man of genius, or the inventor of original deſigns, from the ſervile copyiſt; who, though he may pretend to be an ingenious man, can have no title to the praiſe of genius.

But to return. If we examine the remains of the Roman magnificence, we ſhall ſee their firſt intentions were to procure the conveniences of life and health of the inhabitants; theſe are viſible to this day, in their aqueducts and ſubterraneous drains. Next to theſe conſiderations, was the honouring the gods by magnificent temples. Then aroſe cities, palaces and private buildings, which were adorned with every production of ſcience.

The Engliſh are now what the Romans were of old, diſtinguiſhed like them by power and opulence, and excelling all other nations in commerce and navigation. Our wiſdom is reſpected, our laws are envied, and our dominions are ſpread over a large part of the globe.

Let us, therefore, no longer neglect to enjoy our ſuperiority; let us employ our riches in the encouragement of ingenious labour, by promoting the advancement of grandeur and elegance.

ERRATA.

Page 9, *line* 35, *for* execution, *read* deſigns.
11, 14, *for* elegantly, *read* tolerably well.
62, in the note, *line* 40, *for* entertains and inſtead, *read* entertains inſtead.
73, laſt *line*, *for* ducation, *read* education.

81, *Number* 14, *read* Gate-Street to be opened into Holborn, and a new ſtreet to be made oppoſite to it into Red Lion Square, Drake-Street and Devonſhire-ſtreet are widened, ſo that an uninterrupted communication will be formed from Lincoln's-Inn-Fields to Queen's Square, and ſo on to the New-Road; an improvement which is much wanted in that part of the town.
114, line 13, *dele* in.

N. B. The Lines tinged with red in the plan ſhew the propoſed improvements, the dotted or faint Lines, the ſtreets in their preſent ſtate.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER IMPROVED.

A Diſcourſe on Publick Magnificence.

IF the uſe and advantage of publick magnificence is conſidered as a national concern, it will be found to be of the utmoſt conſequence, in promoting the welfare of mankind, as that attention to it, which encouragement will produce, muſt neceſſarily ſtimulate the powers of invention and ingenuity, and of courſe, create employment for great numbers of artiſts, who, excluſive of the reward of their abilities, cannot fail of ſtriking out many things which will do honour to themſelves and to their country. This conſideration alone, is without doubt highly worthy of a commercial people; it is this which gives the preference to one country in compariſon with another, and it is this which diſtinguiſhes the genius of a people, in the moſt ſtriking manner. In the ſame proportion as publick magnificence increaſes, in the ſame proportion will a love of elegance increaſe among all ranks and degrees of people, and that refinement of taſte, which in a nobleman produces true magnificence and elegance, will in a mechanic produce at leaſt cleanlineſs and decorum.

Publick magnificence and elegance has, by perſons of narrow conceptions, been ſometimes termed luxury, but this is an aſſertion which they would have done well if they had explained; if they mean that all artificial wants beyond the common neceſſaries of life are to be termed luxuries, it will then appear that the condition of mankind is no way ſuperior to that of the brute creation; bring reaſon into the ſcale and we ſhall be reduced below them; the deſire of knowledge is naturally implanted in mankind, and to ſuppoſe the great author of nature has given us deſires and denied us the power of gratifying them, is to ſuppoſe he has made us the moſt miſerable beings in the creation. Every rational man will allow that no natural appetite is to be totally extinguiſhed, it is only to be directed by right reaſon. If the enjoyment of the elegancies of life neither hurts the mind, impairs the body, or does harm to individuals, it is no great matter what name the affectation of ſuch perſons may happen to beſtow upon what their underſtandings were never formed to comprehend; but if a man of delicate ſenſation in order to gratify his paſſions hurts either of theſe he certainly abuſes the noble faculties nature has beſtowed upon him. What therefore in regard to publick magnificence is commonly called luxury, may be applied to the nobleſt purpoſes, the encouragement of ingenuity and induſtry; and certainly in a trading kingdom the more ingenious and induſtrious the ſubordinate part of the inhabitants are made, the more advantages will accrue to the community. No man in his ſenſes would ſurely argue for an equality among mankind, to deſtroy diſtinctions would be to deſtroy all order and decorum, and if what is falſely called luxury was annihilated, what of courſe muſt become of the multitudes whoſe ſubſiſtence entirely depend upon its exiſtence.

If publick magnificence, and a taſte for the polite arts, was attended to and properly encouraged, of what prodigious ſervice would it be to noblemen and gentlemen of fortune who travel. If they were accuſtomed to the frequent obſervation of grand and elegant objects at home, how differently would they appear in the eyes of foreigners. Inſtead of becoming aſtoniſhed and confounded

founded at the grandeur and novelty of the ſeveral objects preſented to their view, they would conſider them with a tranquility which could not fail of convincing thoſe about them, they were not ſtrangers to magnificence, and that they were no otherwiſe affected, than as the objects before them were well or ill executed, which would at once pronounce the goodneſs of their taſte, and do honour to themſelves and country.

In order to illuſtrate the foregoing obſervations on the utility of publick magnificence and elegance it may not be improper to conſider the ſtate of the city of London before the conflagration in 1666, when that great city, (which like moſt others had ariſen from ſmall beginings) was totally inelegant, inconvenient, and unhealthy *, of which latter misfortune many melancholy proofs are authenticated in hiſtory, and which without doubt proceeded from the narrowneſs of the ſtreets and the unaccountable projection of the buildings, which confined the putrid air, and joined with other circumſtances, ſuch as the want of water, and the concurring conſequence of the increaſe of filth, rendered the city ſcarce ever free from peſtilential devaſtation. The fire which conſumed the greateſt part of the city, dreadful as it was to the inhabitants at that time, was productive of conſequences which made ample amends for the loſſes ſuſtained by individuals; a new city aroſe on the ruins of the old, but, though more regular, open, convenient and healthful than the former, yet by no means anſwered to the characters of magnificence or elegance, and it is ever to be lamented (ſuch was the infatuation of thoſe times) that the magnificent, elegant and uſeful plan of the great Sir Chriſtopher Wren was totally diſregarded and ſacrificed to the mean, intereſted and ſelfiſh views of private property; views which did irreparable injury to the citizens themſelves, and to the nation in general, for had that great architect's plan been followed, what has often been aſſerted muſt have been the reſult, the metropolis of this king-

* This was certainly a fact, and as certainly contradicts all the accounts of the magnificence and elegance of the city of London, ſo pompouſly ſet forth by Stowe in his time, and Maitland and Seymour long ſince, who have all taken great pains to perſuade their readers that this city exceeds in ſplendor every other in Europe.

dom would inconteſtably have been the moſt magnificent and elegant city in the univerſe, and of conſequence muſt from the prodigious reſort of foreigners of diſtinction and taſte, who would have viſited it have become an inexhauſtible fund of riches to this Nation. But as the deplorable blindneſs of that age has deprived us of ſo valuable an acquiſition, it is become abſolutely neceſſary that ſome efforts ſhould be made to render the preſent plan in ſome degree anſwerable to the character of the richeſt and moſt powerful people in the world, but this can only be done by conſidering every opportunity occaſioned by fire, dilapidation, or any other accident, as well as of purchaſing ruinous buildings, which are abſolute nuiſances and dangerous to the lives and ſafeties of the people, as occaſions to be improved for the uſe of the publick. By this means ſtreets might be opened, avenues widened, publick edifices made conſpicuous, and paſſages to and from places of the greateſt reſort for publick buſineſs rendered ſafe, commodious and elegant.

It has been thought by ſome that the ſituation of the city of London is in many reſpects inferior in point of grandeur and affect to thoſe of Rome, Paris and Conſtantinople, and that it is not to be viewed to any kind of advantage but from a very few places, but as it was never intended to conſider this point critically the ground plan has only been attended to in this work.

The plan of London in its preſent ſtate will upon inſpection appear, to very moderate judges, to be as injudicious a diſpoſition as can poſſibly be conceived for a city of trade and commerce ſituated on the borders of ſo noble a river as the Thames; the wharfs and quays on its banks are deſpicable and inconvenient beyond conception, and it is utterly impoſſible that a worſe uſe could have been made of ſo beneficial as well as ornamental a part of this city. But allowing in this caſe that private property, the convenience of individuals, and above all the perplexing irregularity of the Buildings which diſgrace its borders, were obſtacles which are inſurmountable, and which muſt remain without remedy, ſurely the caſe is widely different in reſpect to that part of the town about Groſvenor Square and Mary-le-Bone. No ſuch difficulties

preſented

preſented themſelves in that quarter, and it is certain if a well regulated plan had been conſulted, ſo noble a ſpot might have been made ornamental at leaſt, and inſtead of heaping abſurdity upon abſurdity have produced elegance and convenience in the room of reproach and contempt. Why ſo wretched an uſe has been made of ſo valuable and deſirable an opportunity of diſplaying taſte and elegance in this part of the town is a queſtion that very probably would puzzle the builders themſelves to anſwer.

The true reaſon then is, that this profuſion of deformity has been obtruded upon the publick ſolely for want of a general well regulated limitted plan, the execution of which ſhould have been enforced by commiſſioners appointed by authority, men of ſound judgment, taſte and activity; had that happily been the caſe all the glaring abſurdities which are perpetually ſtaring in the faces and inſulting the underſtandings of perſons of ſenſe and taſte, would never have had exiſtence. But private property and pitiful mean undertakings, ſuited to the capacities of the projectors, have taken place of that regularity and elegance which a general plan would have produced, and nothing ſeems to have been conſidered but the intereſt of a few taſteleſs builders, who have entered into a combination with no other views than fleecing the publick and of extending and diſtorting the town till they have rendered it compleatly ridiculous. But even in point of intereſt theſe very builders are deceiving themſelves, for wherever any one or more of them have contrived a narrow ſtreet, lane or alley, though the houſes may let well for the preſent, yet they may be aſſured that as the rage for building increaſes, whenever a more ſpacious avenue is built, thoſe ill-contrived things will be deſerted, and the inhabitants flock to places where they can breathe freely and better enjoy the conveniences of life.

If it has with any degree of truth been ſaid that the plan of the city, as it now ſtands, is inconvenient, inelegant, and without the leaſt pretenſion to magnificence or grandeur, it may with equal truth and propriety be ſaid, that by far the greateſt part of the additional buildings which have been erected within theſe laſt

twenty

twenty years, in the places beforementioned, are not a jot behind hand with the city in point of deformity, with this additional aggravation, that the builders had it in their power to have made the city appear infinitely more deſpicable than it does, by oppoſing order and elegance to confuſion and abſurdity.

It is utterly impoſſible to determine any preciſe form in the plan of a great city, as ſo much will always depend upon the ſituation of the ground and the diſpoſition of the river, where there is one, which, in a city of trade, will always direct the poſition of the principal parts; but then it ought always to be an eſtabliſhed rule, that every poſſible advantage ſhould be taken that the ſituation is capable of producing, for the preſervation of health and the convenience of the inhabitants. It is to be wiſhed, that the ground-plans of all great cities and towns were compoſed of right lines, and that the ſtreets interſected each other at right angles, for except in caſes of abſolute neceſſity, acute angles ought for ever to be avoided, as they are not only diſagreeable to the ſight, but conſtantly waſte the ground and ſpoil the buildings; indeed, if it was practicable, a ſquare or circular form ſhould be preferred in all capital cities as beſt adapted to grandeur and convenience; in the center of which in a ſpacious opening the King's palace ſhould be ſituated; in which caſe he would be ſurrounded by his ſubjects, and the whole, if the expreſſion may be allowed, would reſemble a hive of bees. But unfortunately for the city and ſuburbs of London, right lines have hardly ever been conſidered, and it is entirely owing to this neglect, that ſo much confuſion has been introduced in the diſpoſition of the ſtreets. Such a vaſt city as that of London ought to have had at leaſt three capital ſtreets which ſhould have run through the whole, and at convenient diſtances been interſected by other capital ſtreets at right angles, by which means all the inferior ſtreets would have an eaſy and convenient communication with them, for want of ſuch diſpoſition and to avoid ſuch horrid paſſages as Watling Street and Thames Street in the city, all paſſengers, whoſe buſineſs calls them to London Bridge, though thoſe ſtreets are well ſituated, are forced into Cheapſide in order to preſerve their lives or limbs,

limbs, which proves, inconteſtibly, that a quiet and eaſy communication from place to place is of the utmoſt conſequence to the inhabitants of a great commercial city.

Cuſtom has hitherto blinded the inhabitants of London with reſpect to theſe notorious inconveniences, and the popular prejudice ſo deeply rooted in them, that London is in every reſpect the fineſt city in the world, prevents the majority from ſeeing and conſidering its defects, and conſequently they quietly ſubmit to be thruſt more than half a mile out of the way, rather than call in queſtion the underſtanding of their forefathers. But how would the good people of London be ſtruck, if a traveller, in deſcribing a Hottentot crawl or city, ſhould tell them, that this immenſe crawl, equally populous and rich, is nothing more than a confuſed heap, an irregular, ſlovenly, ill-digeſted compoſition, of all that is abſurd and ungraceful; that its principal avenues are narrow and crooked, that the greateſt part of the crawl is compoſed of blind alleys and narrow unconnected paſſages, equally inconvenient and unwholſome, that ſome of its houſes are ſuffered to project before the others, to the great annoyance of their neighbours, and that for want of a tolerably well-regulated plan, the indolence of its inhabitants has ſuffered one of the fineſt ſituations in the world to become a reproach to the whole nation, and after enumerating all theſe diſguſting particulars, ſhould conclude with ſaying, that he knew no city in Europe that could convey ſo good an idea of this Hottentot crawl as that of London.

In order to ſupport and illuſtrate the foregoing diſagreeable compariſon, which to many may appear ſevere, partial and injurious, let any one who has a tolerable taſte, and ſome idea of publick magnificence, give himſelf the trouble of conſidering the ſtate of the buildings, quays and wharfs on both ſides the River Thames, from Chelſea to Blackwall on the one hand, and from Batterſea to Greenwich on the other, and he will be immediately convinced that there is not one convenient, well-regulated ſpot (as the buildings thereon are at preſent diſpoſed) either for buſineſs or elegance in that whole extent;

extent; and what is ſtill more, that one half of the buildings on the banks of the river are in ruins, and the whole utterly loſt to the publick, as well as extremely inconvenient to individuals. After he has conſidered the ſtate of the banks of the river, he may continue his obſervations upon the interior parts of the town, and naturally turn his eyes upon thoſe uſeful places to the trading part of the world, Wapping, Rotherhithe, and Southwark, all contiguous to the Thames, and all entirely deſtitute of that uſeful regularity, convenience and utility, ſo very deſirable in commercial cities, and that too in places formed by nature for the execution of every thing of that kind. In this part of his obſervation he muſt neceſſarily be led to conſider the Tower, Towerhill, and particularly the Cuſtom-Houſe, which laſt building being of the utmoſt conſequence to the publick, he will find in point of grandeur, magnificence and convenience, to be the worſt contrived heap of abſurdity and inconvenience that could poſſibly be put together, in a place where room might have been found to diſplay every advantage the nature of ſuch a building indiſpenſibly required. The obſerver may from thence direct his view through wretched, miſerably contrived avenues into Spittalfields, White-Chapel, Moorfields, and the adjacent parts, where he will find the moſt advantageous ſituations laid out in the moſt deſpicable manner, nor will he be much better ſatisfied when he comes to conſider the buildings which are at this time carrying on, at, and about the Bank of England, where he will immediately diſcover that what was meant as an improvement, is made an aukward blemiſh to the city of London. When he has proceeded thus far in the city, it may not be amiſs to conſider the ſituation of St. Paul's, and other churches, the Monument, the companies Halls, and other publick buildings, and if mean encumbrances are to be eſteemed as ornamental and advantageous to fine buildings, he will find ample room for admiration. The obſerver may next take in all thoſe wretched parts

which

which he will find on both ſides the Fleet-Market, and afterwards view the only gate (except Temple-Bar) the citizens have left themſelves to ſhew that London was once a city; this however unfortunately was the greateſt nuiſance of them all, and was undoubtedly left with a political view, as an apologetical ſpecimen to poſterity, for deſtroying all the reſt. Indeed this ſeems to be the only ſtrong hold the good citizens have left, and is the only place from which the bad ones cannot eſcape, if they have a mind to it.

Neceſſity will compel the obſerver to proceed into Smithfield, for the ſake of breathing a freer air, and when he has conſidered a ſpot capable of the greateſt advantages, but deſtitute of any, he may plunge into the deplorable avenues of Fee-lane and other horrid paſſages in that neighbourhood, and after purſuing the moſt diſagreeable labyrinth that can be conceived for a conſiderable time, emerge again upon Clerkenwell-Green, in which he will find the only good ſtreet, in that part of the town, ſurrounded by ſome of the very worſt in it.

It will be no eaſy taſk for the obſerver from Clerkenwell-Green to aſcend Mutton-Lane, and proceed to Baldwin's Gardens, a deſolated ſpot, through the ruins of which, if he eſcapes without hurt, he may reach Gray's-Inn-Lane, one of the principal avenues to this metropolis, which is deſpicable beyond conception: From thence he may hobble into Holborn, where the firſt object that preſents itſelf to view is Middle-Row, a nuiſance univerſally deteſted, and for that reaſon, and the narrow conſideration of private property, ſuffered to remain a publick diſgrace to the fineſt ſtreet in London.

He may proceed with ſome ſatisfaction until he arrives at Broad St. Giles's, where, if he can bear to ſee a fine ſituation covered with ruinous buildings, and inhabited by the moſt deplorable objects that human nature can furniſh, he may viſit the environs. From hence he may proceed along Oxford-Road, and ſtriking into the town on which hand he pleaſes, meet with places which (conſidering the ſituation of the ground they ſtand upon, the expenſiveneſs of the buildings erected, the meanneſs of the execution, and, above all, the wretched diſpoſition of the whole for want of a well-regulated

plan) deſerve to be placed even below the meaneſt of thoſe already mentioned, though almoſt all of them were erected within the memory of man.

He will not be better ſatisfied when he has reached Weſtminſter, when he conſiders what might have been done, and how little has been done, when ſo fine an opportunity preſented itſelf; certainly the building of the new bridge, and the power with which the commiſſioners were veſted, demanded much more, and had a general plan of improvements been duly conſidered, it is as certain that a very different uſe would have been made of ſo deſirable a field for the exertion of taſte, elegance and magnificence. If he proceeds further than the new buildings, he will find only the ſame defects repeated, wretched avenues, miſerable buildings, and a continued diſplay of abſurdity and inconvenience.

From Weſtminſter-Bridge he may eaſily, though not ſo agreeably as he might have reaſonably hoped (owing to the injudicious formation of the road) conduct himſelf into St. George's-Fields, the only ſpot now left about London, which has not yet fallen a ſacrifice to the depraved taſte of modern builders, here he may indulge himſelf with the contemplation of what advantageous things may yet be done for this hitherto neglected metropolis; the bridge now building at Black-Friars will undoubtedly be the means of entirely altering the face of that part of the city, and certainly it becomes neceſſary to take particular care of the execution of a plan, which, when once ill done, we cannot hope will hereafter be remedied.

It was judged unneceſſary to conduct the obſerver to the palace of St. James's, for that is an object of reproach to the kingdom in general, it is univerſally condemned, and the meaneſt ſubject who has ſeen it, laments that his Prince reſides in a houſe ſo ill-becoming the ſtate and grandeur of the moſt powerful and reſpectable monarch in the univerſe; a Prince whoſe ſupreme happineſs conſiſts in promoting the good and welfare of his ſubjects, who is himſelf a lover of the arts, and under whoſe happy auſpices artiſts of every denomination of real merit and ingenuity can never doubt of obtaining patronage and encouragement in a manner

manner adequate to their reſpective abilities. But bad as the palace of St. James's really is in its preſent ſtate, the pride of the people of England ought to exert itſelf in ſuch a manner that nothing derogatory to the Majeſty of the King, or to the glory of the kingdom, ſhould be ſuffered to take place with regard to it. No mean, deſpicable attempt to cover deformity by patch-work, which might aptly be compared to the miſerable artifice of a battered proſtitute, who endeavours by paint to hide the effects of debauchery, or conceal the defects of nature; no, the palace of the Sovereign of theſe kingdoms ought not to be permitted even to be the ſecond in the world, and if it cannot be the firſt, it is to be wiſhed that it may remain in its preſent ſtate until this nation ſhall have acquired more taſte, and have attained more ſpirit to put that taſte in execution.

The Queen's palace is upon the whole elegantly deſigned, and the ſituation extremely good, but it is to be wiſhed it was diſencumbered by the removal of ſeveral of the ſurrounding buildings, eſpecially thoſe which hinder the view into the Green-Park, and deform the whole palace: Theſe, and ſome others on the oppoſite ſide ought to be taken away, but if theſe are not ſuitable to the palace, the mean houſes now erecting, called Queen's-Row, near the garden-wall, are intolerable nuiſances, and it is great pity they could not have been prevented, as they muſt be offenſive to the palace and gardens upon many accounts. The Chelſea water-engine is alſo very inconveniently ſituated, as the ſmoke from it muſt unavoidably be poured into the palace whenever the wind blows from that quarter, and the ſmoke from the above-mentioned hovels muſt alſo in a great meaſure affect it in the ſame manner. The brick kilns and hoſpitals are likewiſe intolerable nuiſances which ſhould be removed; the removal of the ſtatues by the former poſſeſſor was improper, and the houſe was deprived of a very great ornament, as they broke the ſtrait line upon the top of the building, and produced a noble effect; nor was the removal of the fountain at the ſame time more judicious, as it contributed to ſpoil the whole deſign.

From what has, with the ſtricteſt regard to truth, been ſaid of the city and ſuburbs of London and Weſtminſter, there cannot remain the leaſt doubt but that their ſtate, with regard to magnificence,

elegance and convenience, is very deſpicable, conſequently the neceſſity of rendering them otherwiſe is become a matter of ſerious concern to perſons in power, and is a demonſtration that ſome kind of general plan ſhould be formed for their improvement. In the cities of Paris, Edinburgh, Rotterdam and other places, the government takes cognizance of all publick buildings both uſeful and ornamental, and where any thing abſurd or improper is propoſed to be done the legiſlature ſeaſonably prevents the intruſion of deformity in their capital, which would undoubtedly find its way if the whim and caprice of their builders was ſuffered to go on without this check.

In the city of Rome, when any great deſign was conceived and determined to be put in execution, whether it was to decorate the church of St. Peter, or to erect a ſtatue or fountain, the firſt artiſt in that city was always ſure to be preferred and employed; in order to this it was uſual to give notice that ſuch an undertaking was in agitation, and the aſſiſtance of the artiſts required, in conſequence of this notice, deſigns and models were immediately furniſhed, and the ſuperintendants of thoſe works conſtantly preferred ſuch as appeared to have the greateſt degree of merit: This conduct produced emulation, and gave riſe to ſuch performances as have deſervedly merited the approbation of the moſt conſummate judges, and done honour to the artiſts and their employers.

Happy would it have been for this great city, if authority had by a timely interpoſition prevented many of thoſe intolerable nuiſances and deformities already complained of. It is certain that a good regular plan is leſs expenſive than a bad irregular one. Had authority interpoſed, we ſhould very probably have had the pleaſure of ſeeing buildings erected with more convenient room, and at the ſame time occupying leſs ground; we ſhould have been utter ſtrangers to the terminating of tolerable good ſtreets with ſtables and dunghills; nor ſhould we have ſeen the fronts of one pile of buildings oppoſed to the backs of another, which is undoubtedly one of the greateſt errors that can be committed, for in that caſe one ſide of the ſtreet muſt be encumbered with a melancholy dangerous dead wall, for which there is not any other remedy than that of making dwarf walls with

with iron rails, a method which occaſions an unneceſſary expence, and when done becomes inconvenient and ungraceful.

Had a general plan been obſerved in the new buildings about Mary-le-Bone and the adjacent parts, ſo many deſpicable little chapels would never have been ſuffered, when there is ſo manifeſt a want of noble objects in that quarter; had the pariſh church of Mary-le-Bone been rebuilt in a magnificent manner and well placed, it would have anſwered the purpoſes both of a commodious place for publick worſhip to the numerous families in that pariſh, and at the ſame time in the view of the town from the adjacent country, would have broken the line of the new buildings, which as they at preſent ſtand give no better idea to the ſpectator than that of a plain brick wall of prodigious length. In proof of the conſequence of objects of this kind, let it be ſuppoſed that the cupola of St. Paul's was taken away, and it would then be found that the loſs of that noble ornament would immediately reduce the appearance of the city to a level with that of any other populous city in the kingdom.

In many parts of the new buildings another very great abſurdity has been practiſed, which is that of erecting ſingle brick edifices with ſtone fronts of a regular deſign, the ſides and backs of which being entirely expoſed preſent nothing but abſurdity and contradiction, a motley compoſition of ſtone and brick walls perforated with holes in order to admit light. In the city of Bath, the fronts of the houſes which compoſe the celebrated circus there, are built of ſtone of the three Greek orders, three quarter columns in couplets with their proper entablatures, and the doors and windows in character; and ſo far when finiſhed will be the moſt elegant ſtructure in the kingdom, though rather too ſmall; but how is the ſpectator offended when he comes to view the back part of this very circus, which is entirely expoſed, and finds that it has no kind of connection with the front and exhibits only a heap of confuſed irregular buildings *.

As

* This could have been removed by building an outer circle, forming a double row of houſes, or a ſquare, which would have anſwered the ſame purpoſe. An ingenious gentleman propoſed ſome years ago to the citizens of Bath, a ſcheme for improving and

As the mention of Bath has led us into a digreſſion, it may not be improper to obſerve that in this age of miſtaken refinement there is not in the kingdom one city, town or village wherein any regularity is obſerved, or attempt made towards magnificence or elegance, except the city of Bath. And the worſt is, that immenſe ſums have been for many years paſt laid out in ſeveral places, which for want of taſte in thoſe who had the direction of the buildings, are perhaps much the worſe for their being erected at all. Whenever any buildings either in a city, town or village go to decay the proprietor (if able) ſhould be obliged to rebuild in a regular uniform manner. The villages about London in particular, ſuch as Chelſea, Kenſington, Knightſbridge, Paddington, Iſlington, &c. ſhould be ſubject to a law of this kind; they are all capable of vaſt improvements, and might very eaſily be made delightful ſpots, worthy the neighbourhood of ſo rich and opulent a city as London: But as magnificence and elegance are ſo little attended to in the capital itſelf, it can hardly be expected they ſhould be found in its adjacencies.

The two univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge, are ſtriking examples of what might be done. If a little attention had been given to propriety, elegance and regularity, if after the foundation of the firſt college in either of thoſe places, the next ſucceeding ones had been erected from time to time with a view to this great end, what noble places would theſe great ſeminaries have been, what a variety of elegant uniform buildings, what grand and regular ſtreets and ſquares would have been formed, and how totally different would their appearance have been at preſent? But no ſuch principle having ever been attended to, theſe places which ought to have been at leaſt as elegant as any in the kingdom, are with reſpect to order and decorum the moſt confuſed ſcenes that can be imagined.

and beautifying that city, and though it met with the greateſt approbation from people of taſte in general, and in particular from a nobleman who was poſſeſſed of very great property there, yet from the ignorant prejudices of the majority of the citizens, this uſeful ſcheme was ſuffered to be thrown aſide, and though they are now building in that city at a prodigious rate, no regard is paid to a general plan, which is alſo the caſe in ſeveral other places in this kingdom.

Before this diſcourſe is concluded, it becomes neceſſary to return to the city, and mention the great want of ſpacious elegant ſtreets there. This has been done before in a general way, in ſpeaking of thoſe dangerous inconvenient avenues Watling-ſtreet and Thames-ſtreet; were theſe properly opened, what an alteration would be produced in reſpect to grandeur and utility, how eaſy, ſafe and commodious would the conveyance of goods and merchandize be rendered by it, and what a fine opportunity would thereby be given to erect dwelling houſes for the wealthy merchants, who for want of ſuch conveniences are thruſt out of the way of their buſineſs, and obliged to live in a part of the town entirely unſuitable to their intereſts in every reſpect; the body of merchants certainly are and ought to be, to the inferior citizens, what the body of the nobility are to the whole; the merchants are the opulent people of the city, and the greateſt part of its inhabitants are entirely dependant upon them, indeed their dependance is mutual, for which reaſon it is plain their reſidence ought to be in the city, and conſequently ſome effectual method ſhould be purſued in order to accommodate them properly, and prevent as much as poſſible their mixing among perſons of quality, whoſe manner of living and purſuits are totally unſuitable to men of buſineſs.

Two or three centuries ago indeed ſeveral of the principal of the nobility reſided within the walls of the city, and undoubtedly the grandeur of thoſe buildings muſt have added much to the appearance the city then made, but ſince that time the different mode of living has produced prodigious changes, and it is to be wiſhed, as people of quality with great propriety withdrew themſelves from the city, that the citizens with equal propriety would withdraw themſelves to a ſituation where they would meet with more reſpect, and at the ſame time attend their buſineſs; but this can never be done unleſs ſome effectual ſtep is taken by the city to provide the merchants with ſtreets ſuitable to the affluence of that reſpectable body of people, who are without doubt the moſt uſeful and beneficial part of the community.

From

From what has been already advanced in purſuing this diſcourſe, it appears there is abundant room for improving and embelliſhing ſeveral parts of the city and ſuburbs of London; but, as individuals, we are extremely expenſive, as a people mean and pitiful; the principal intention of the Author is to adviſe (what has by every thinking perſon been long wiſhed) that proper bounds may be ſet to that fury which ſeems to poſſeſs the fraternity of builders, and to prevent them from extending the town in the enormous manner they have done and ſtill continue to do, and this it is preſumed can be no other way accompliſhed than by a plan of limitation, beyond which they ſhould be prohibited from building under ſevere penalties; ſince if they are permitted to proceed at their accuſtomed rate, we may expect to find that the neighbouring hills of Hampſtead and Highgate, will ſoon become conſiderable parts of the ſuburbs of London; and when the limbs extend themſelves too faſt, and grow out of proportion to the body which is to nouriſh and ſuſtain them, it may very rationally be ſuppoſed, that a conſumption will be the conſequence: And indeed if the expreſſion may be allowed, many parts of the body are already reduced to ſkin and bone; by means therefore of a proper limitation this terrible event may be prevented, and if theſe quacks in building can be called in and made any way ſerviceable towards reſtoring and repairing the decayed parts of the body, they may then be allowed to plead their having done ſome ſervice, and poſſibly make attonement for the wretched operations they have already performed upon its mangled limbs.

To give any probable reaſon why ſuch a prodigious encreaſe of building has been encouraged in this metropolis, may perhaps be eſteemed no part of the Author's buſineſs, but whether it proceeds from the migration of foreigners, or from ſo many convenient roads being made from all parts of the kingdom, whether it be owing to our own people's deſerting their native homes and quitting their innocent country retreats for the ſake of taſting the pleaſures of this great city *, whether the profits of

* Perhaps it might not be diſadvantageous to the kingdom in general if the royal reſidence was not confined ſolely to London, if the court was occaſionally held in different

of a ſucceſsful war has enabled ſome to keep houſes who were formerly contented with lodgings; whether it is owing to the arrival of others, who, having acquired fortunes in the plantations, come to ſpend them here; or to the monopolizing of farms, that is, making one large farm out of three or four ſmall ones, and thereby compelling the farmers who are turned out of them to ſeek their bread in this metropolis, are all conſiderations well worth enquiring into; as it is certain that notwithſtanding the amazing encreaſe of buildings, houſes are ſtill procured with difficulty, and the rents of moſt are perpetually encreaſing; but theſe are queſtions which it is hoped ſome more able perſons will think it worth their while to anſwer. There is the greateſt probability that in time the prodigious encreaſe of buildings muſt give relief to the tenants, as it will be impoſſible for them all to be inhabited, and at the ſame time that the landlords of old houſes ſhould continue to raiſe their rents, there is one circumſtance which is pleaſant enough, and is now carrying on with great ſucceſs by the landlords in thoſe ſtreets which are at this time new paving, which is, that although the expence of paving and lighting the ſtreets in the manner preſcribed by the act falls entirely upon the tenant, yet the landlords, taking advantage of a benefit they never intended or have in the leaſt contributed to, fail not where-ever they are not prevented by a leaſe, to raiſe their rents in the moſt arbitrary manner.

It becomes neceſſary in this place to take particular notice of the very elegant, uſeful and neceſſary improvement of the city of Weſtminſter, and its liberties, by the preſent method of paving and enlightening it; an improvement which every one who is doomed to walk feels in the moſt ſenſible manner; to ſay that the ſtreets are thereby rendered ſafe and commodious would be ſaying too little, it may without exaggeration be aſſerted, that they are not only made ſafe and commodious, but elegant and magnificent;

different places it might in ſome meaſure prevent many from coming to this city, who have no buſineſs to viſit it at all, for it is poſſible that too many people may be brought to London, and thereby in time depopulate the country, as well as greatly enhance the price of proviſions and every other neceſſary of life.

this can be no where pointed out with ſo much propriety as in the Strand, which from being dark, dirty and inconvenient, is become ſplendid, elegant, and in reſpect of what it was before, magnificent; upon the whole, there never was in any age or country a publick ſcheme adopted which reflects more glory upon a government, or does greater honour to the perſon who originally propoſed and ſupported it; indeed it is to be wiſhed that when this improvement was concerted it had been carried a little further, by removing all kinds of buſineſs which from their nature are offenſive or dangerous, ſuch as publick markets, into detached places.

The intolerable practice of holding a market for the ſale of live cattle in the center of the metropolis has been loudly and juſtly complained of for many years paſt, but no redreſs has yet been given, nor indeed any attention paid to the repeated remonſtrances made againſt a nuiſance at once extremely dangerous as well as inelegant and inconvenient, the almoſt total inattention of the generality of mankind to every thing which does not immediately concern their own intereſt, has hitherto prevented the citizens of London from taking cognizance of a nuiſance which it is undoubtedly both their intereſt and duty to remove; the ſame inattention, or ſomething worſe, has likewiſe prevented them from conſidering that with regard to this very circumſtance their fore-fathers were much wiſer than their deſcendants, for they may pleaſe to recollect, that when London was a city, that is, had a regular wall and gates, this very market was obliged to be kept in Smithfield, or Smith's field, a field without the walls, near enough to the center of the metropolis to render it convenient, but at the ſame time properly ſituated to prevent thoſe inconveniences which at this time are ſo juſtly complained of; at the ſame time we find that the ſlaughter-houſes were ſituated in and about Butcher-Hall-Lane, between Newgate and Alderſgate, and probably no where elſe; which ſituation from its vicinity to Smithfield, was extremely proper, and prevented the cattle from being driven through the ſtreets of the city; but as in ſucceeding times the ſuburbs began to be extended in a prodigious degree, Smithfield became not only ſurrounded with houſes but with ſtreets

alſo,

alſo, and at length by the demolition of the city wall and gates, is become much too nearly ſituated in the heart of the metropolis, a circumſtance which was manifeſtly never intended by our forefathers. It is a great pity therefore that in regard to the lives and ſafeties of the people, as well as of elegance and decorum, this market is not removed to ſome convenient ſpot near the Iſlington road; either between that road and the ſuburbs, or at the back part of Iſlington; this market might be formed into a regular and ſpacious ſquare, ſurrounded with ſlaughter-houſes and other neceſſary buildings adapted to the ſeveral purpoſes of this kind of buſineſs, and the whole might be ſo contrived as not to be offenſive even in point of appearance; in ſuch a place the beaſts might be ſold and killed by the purchaſers, and afterwards removed to the ſeveral markets; but if any very material objection ſhould be made to the removal of this market, it may be worth conſidering whether it would not be practicable to erect ſlaugher-houſes in the neighbourhood of Smithfield, ſomewhere about Chick-Lane or ſome ſuch ruinous part, which places would by this means be rendered valuable to the owners, and in order to prevent the miſchiefs before complained of, a method ſhould be conſidered to ſtop all the avenues into Smithfield during the hours of holding the market, (except that which led immediately to the ſlaughter-houſes) and the cattle, after they were purchaſed, ſhould be driven directly thither, and either killed the ſame day, or if proper places were built for their reception, be kept there as long as convenience would require; by this means the great miſchief ariſing from driving the cattle through the ſtreets would be prevented, accidents of this kind are chiefly owing to the ſeparating of theſe animals from each other, to which they have a natural averſion; when one of them is parted from the herd he always endeavours to recover his ſituation, but being prevented and finding himſelf alone, which he is unaccuſtomed to be, he runs wildly about, and as his terrors are too often encreaſed by the cruelty of the drivers and purſuits of the rabble, becomes outragious, and at length from the natural principle of ſelf-defence often does irreparable miſchief.

Another expedient for preventing the dangers ariſing from the practice of driving cattle through the metropolis, would be to have a market ſomewhere near the Borough of Southwark, to which the cattle from Kent, Surry and the other counties, might be brought for ſale, and this to be contrived in the ſame manner as that mentioned at or near Iſlington, both theſe markets might be immediately under the inſpection and regulation of the Lord Mayor and citizens of London, and if even a third and fourth were thought neceſſary to be held in the Eaſt and Weſt ends of the town, for the convenience of the publick, they might be regulated in the ſame manner; but the nuiſance complained of ſhould by no means be any longer tolerated, nor is it apprehended this very deſirable event can be any other way accompliſhed than by the methods above-mentioned. If ſuch a ſcheme was to be put in execution, the removal of the market would give a fine opportunity to the city of London for converting Smithfield into a noble regular ſquare, which might be applied either for the purpoſe of trade or elſe as dwellings for merchants and people of opulence, as ſhould be found moſt convenient.

It would have been alſo advantageous for the publick if for the convenience of watering the ſtreets, water-cocks had been placed at certain diſtances, which ſhould communicate from the pipes and paſs under the pavement through the kirb, the ſame thing might be practiſed in the New-Road, which forms the grand line of limitation; as ceſs-pools are found to be very offenſive and inconvenient, it is a great pity that more attention is not given to making publick drains or common-ſewers, which ſhould always be made large enough for a man to walk upright, and at proper diſtances trap-doors ſhould be contrived of ſufficient ſtrength, in order to cleanſe them without breaking up the pavement, which is the common inconvenient method now practiſed.

From what has been already urged, it muſt be allowed that publick works of real magnificence, taſte, elegance and utility, in a commercial city, are of the utmoſt conſequence; they are not only of real uſe in point of ſplendor and convenience, but as neceſſary to the community as health and cloathing to the human body,

they

they are the great ſources of invention and of ingenious employments, and are a means of ſtamping real value upon materials of every kind. It is entirely owing to the encouragement of works of this ſort that the kingdom of France has obtained a ſuperiority over the reſt of the world in the polite arts, and it is by the encouragement of theſe alone that this nation, to the full as ingenious as the French, can ever hope to make a figure in the arts equal to what they now make in arms.

Upon the whole, the Author ſubmits his work entirely to the candour of the publick, that publick for whoſe uſe and benefit it was ſolely undertaken, and from whom the nature of the work will not permit him to expect any other reward than a timely and ſerious conſideration of its utility. His chief aim has been ſolely directed to enforce an attention to publick improvements, in order that every communication may be rendered equally convenient, that property may be made more valuable, and that by an elegant diſpoſition of the whole it may become a matter of indifference in what quarter of the town one would chuſe to reſide; to conclude, thus much he will venture to aſſert, that if the whole or any part of his propoſed alterations are put into execution, he does not believe any one would wiſh to ſee the old forms reſtored.

Obſervations on the State of Arts and Artiſts in Great-Britain.

AS the cultivation of the polite arts is beyond contradiction a ſource of wealth and honour to a nation, and as it has been principally deſigned in this work to recommend and promote the care and ſtudy of them, it may not be improper to give a conciſe account of the riſe and progreſs of the ſeveral branches of painting, ſculpture, architecture and engraving, by which the publick will be enabled to form a judgment of the former as well as preſent ſtate of the arts in this kingdom.

The art of painting in England, has, until very lately, been in a fluctuating ſtate. In the reign of Henry the Eighth Holbein painted here, and was encouraged by that Monarch, and conſequently was employed by the Nobility of thoſe times, but his works were unknown to the publick, few perſons had the opportunity of ſeeing them, conſequently they excited no emulation among the ingenious, and the ſplendour of painting diſappeared with that maſter, it glimmered however again in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Iſaac Oliver and Zuccaro painted in her time; it afterwards grew more faint, or rather was totally extinguiſhed, in the reign of King James the Firſt, but blazed out in that of his ſucceſſor. Rubens and Vandyke were employed by King Charles the Firſt, they were indeed foreign auxiliaries, but they laid the foundations of taſte and knowledge in this art among the great, their works, eſpecially thoſe of Vandyke, were not only more numerous but became alſo more the objects of publick attention, than thoſe of Holbein and the ſucceeding maſters had been; accordingly emulation was excited among the ingenious part of this nation, and ſeveral painters were produced who did honour to their country, but their genius, in compliance with

with the prevailing taſte of the kingdom, ſeldom reached further than to portrait-painting, for encouragement was not given to any other part of the art, ſhip-painting excepted, in which the celebrated Vandevelde was ſuperior to every other maſter; however portrait painting flouriſhed and continued to flouriſh, Cooper, (in miniature) Sir Peter Lely and Sir Godfrey Kneller kept up the national paſſion with great ſucceſs, and ſome publick works which required decorations, gave opportunity to Sir James Thornhill and others to ſhew that hiſtorical painting, if properly encouraged, was a field in which the Britiſh nation might engage with their competitors, not without advantage; but notwithſtanding this advancement of the art of painting, and the number of ingenious profeſſors who continually increaſed in every branch, neither painting nor the profeſſors of painting were known, diſtinguiſhed or encouraged. The few indeed who had taſte and diſcernment ſought for theſe ingenious men, and purchaſed their works, but the publick knew them not, nor did they know each other; they had no ſociety or intercourſe with their fellow artiſts, conſequently had very little to ſay in each others recommendation in the different branches of painting, and he who had the greateſt acquaintance, whatever were his abilities, was ſure to get the moſt money. However, the natural good ſenſe and ingenuity of the Britiſh nation continued ſtill to furniſh very able maſters, and theſe at length collected their ſcattered and diſperſed brethren and formed a little ſociety, who wiſely conſidering their mutual intereſt, by a voluntary ſubſcription among themſelves, eſtabliſhed an academy, which is at this time kept up in St. Martins-Lane.

The eſtabliſhment of the Foundling-Hoſpital, which was a national concern, and attracted the notice of the publick in a very particular manner, gave an opportunity, when finiſhed, for diſplaying a ſcene entirely new to this nation; the Hoſpital was juſt in its infancy, and elegant decorations and every poſſible means that could allure or draw the attention of the publick towards its ſupport and maintenance were found neceſſary; but the expence of ſuch ornaments could not be afforded by a charity whoſe utmoſt abilities were demanded for the ſuccour and ſupport of deſerted periſhing

infants. In order to contribute to the ſupport of this uſeful eſtabliſhment, and to ſhew at once that ingenuity and compaſſion for the diſtreſſes of human nature, are uſually found to reſide in the ſame breaſt, the moſt conſiderable artiſts in Great-Britain, nobly and generouſly united in beſtowing a great number of excellent performances in painting and ſculpture, which embelliſhed the Hoſpital, entertained the publick, and, at the ſame time, convinced the world that painting was arrived to a degree of perfection in this kingdom, of which, until this era, they had no conception. The governors of the hoſpital, convinced of the uſe and benefit which accrued to the charity from theſe truly valuable donations, and deſirous of improving a connection ſo very advantageous to them, encouraged the ſeveral contributors, and alſo the whole body of thoſe who profeſſed the polite arts, to have an annual-meeting at the Hoſpital, on the fifth of November; theſe meetings drew together the moſt ingenious artiſts from every quarter, and, at one of them, it was propoſed to the whole body, to have an annual exhibition of ſuch performances as ſhould be judged worthy the notice of the publick.

A propoſal ſo very advantageous to merit of every kind, could not fail of being received with applauſe, and was unanimouſly agreed to; in conſequence of this reſolution, application was made to the ſociety of arts, manufactures and commerce, who, taking it into conſideration, rightly judged, that an exhibition of this nature could not be carried into execution with ſo much propriety as under, their patronage; they complied therefore willingly with this requeſt, and, in the year 1760, the firſt exhibition of the artiſts of Great-Britain was made, and another the year following; but as every member of the ſociety was at liberty to diſtribute what number of tickets for admittance he thought fit, that which was intended only as a polite, entertaining and rational amuſement for the publick, became a ſcene of tumult and diſorder; and to ſuch a height was the rage of viſiting the exhibition carried, that, when the members themſelves had ſatisfied their own curioſity, the room was crowded, during the hours allotted for the exhibition, with menial ſervants and their acquaintance; this proſtitution of the polite arts undoubtedly became extremely diſagreeable to the profeſſors themſelves, who

who heard alike, with indignation, their works cenſured or approved by kitchen-maids and ſtable-boys; but the cauſe of the final ſeparation (for this abuſe might have been remedied) of the artiſts of Great-Britain, from the ſociety, was this: It had been and is ſtill uſual for the ſociety to give premiums for hiſtorical and landſcape painting, theſe rewards were uſually adjudged among the competitors ſome little time before the exhibition began, and as thoſe who gained the premiums were obliged to leave their pictures a limitted time with the ſociety, they were of courſe ſure to be in the exhibition. The great inconvenience of this method of proceeding was ſoon diſcovered by ſeveral of the moſt eminent painters, whoſe reputations were already ſo eminently eſtabliſhed as to prevent their becoming candidates for a trifling premium; theſe therefore, as their characters were ſo nearly concerned, very juſtly objected to the continuation of this cuſtom, for the following obvious reaſon: It was generally known that the ſociety had determined premiums for ſeveral pictures, and it was natural enough for perſons, who knew nothing of the matter, to enquire, upon entering the room, which of the pieces among that profuſion of art were thoſe which had obtained the premium, and, being ſatisfied in this particular, they very innocently concluded, for want of better judgment, that theſe had obtained the prize from *all* the reſt, and, conſequently, were the *beſt* pictures. Had it been poſſible to have confined this injurious deciſion to the vulgar ſpectators, it would have been a thing of no conſequence; but unfortunately for the arts, many in a much higher ſphere of life were liable to be led away by the ſame opinion; and therefore, as the ſociety would not give up this point, a ſeparation enſued, and every ſucceeding exhibition has been made at the room in Spring-Gardens. The prodigious encouragement given to it, and the applauſe beſtowed on the ſeveral performances, by perſons of the greateſt taſte and diſtinction, evidently ſhews, what a prodigious progreſs has been made in the arts, as well as what great expectations may be formed of what will probably be done by the concurring incitements of applauſe and emulation, and the effects of ſociety and concord. The ſucceſs of the exhibition, and the harmony which ſub-

ſiſted among the exhibitors, naturally led them to the thoughts of ſoliciting an eſtabliſhment, and forming themſelves into a body; in conſequence of which ſolicitation, his Majeſty was moſt graciouſly pleaſed to grant them his Royal Charter, incorporating them by the name of The Society of Artiſts of Great-Britain; which charter bears date the twenty-ſixth day of January, 1765.

Having brought this hiſtorical account of the ſtate of painting in England, down to the preſent time; it remains only to ſay, that, in order to raiſe the art to the utmoſt degree of perfection in England, it is ſincerely to be wiſhed, that the narrow notion of baniſhing works of this nature from places of publick worſhip was entirely exploded; no ſolid reaſon can be given, why ſubjects, properly choſen, ſhould not be painted in Proteſtant churches, nor can it be argued, that becauſe thoſe who profeſs the Romiſh religion, pay adoration to wooden ſaints and pictures, that thoſe of the church of England would become guilty of a ſin in looking upon a picture, merely becauſe they found one in a place of worſhip, which it was never intended they ſhould pay adoration to; nor can it be conceived, that while any one is ſeriouſly and attentively liſtening to the ſacred hiſtory of our Saviour and his apoſtles, that a noble and ſenſible repreſentation of the very action itſelf, would inſpire them with any other thoughts than ſuch as would tend to illuſtrate and make permanent their ideas of the relation. Poſſibly the contemplation of ſuch objects might prevent the thoughts of many from wandering to others far leſs worthy of contemplation. The fabulous ſuperſtitious legends of pretended ſaints, ought, without doubt, to be for ever baniſhed; but the life and miracles of Chriſt and his apoſtles, are ſurely ſubjects which are ſuitable to the church, and can never with the leaſt ſhadow of reaſon be objected to.

Theſe would certainly be much properer decorations than painted or carved imitations of cherubims, &c. which are ſcattered about with the greateſt profuſion in almoſt every church in London, and particularly in St. Paul's, in which cathedral, as the dome has been ſuffered to be painted already, and has been ſo juſtly admired, there ſeems to be no reaſon why the decorations ſhould not be finiſhed according to Sir Chriſtopher Wren's original intention, who never

never dreamed of the ridiculous objections that would be made to its being executed, as appears by the many compartments in that ſtructure, which manifeſtly point out that great architect's intention. If this miſerable mean-ſpirited prejudice was once overcome, England might in time, in its churches and painters, vie even with Rome itſelf; but, till that happens, hiſtorical painting certainly never will arrive to that pitch, to which ſuch a glorious opportunity would undoubtedly advance it.

We cannot wonder that hiſtory is ſilent in her account of the ſtate of ſculpture in this kingdom, during the Heptarchy, or ſoon after the Roman conqueſt; the ſame reaſon that forbad the progreſs of painting, operated equally in the obſtruction of her ſiſter art; the building of churches only excepted. The immenſe wealth and power of the clergy induced them to raiſe and endow cathedrals, monaſteries and colleges, intending by ſuch purpoſes to ſignalize their zeal for religion, and to conſtitute an indelible record of the grandeur, riches and power of the church in thoſe periods. As the hiſtorians of theſe ages were chiefly eccleſiaſtics, they were only zealouſly active in commending ſacred foundations, and praiſing thoſe religious Princes, or ſuch of the clergy who had endowed or bequeathed lands to their uſe.

Theſe buildings muſt neceſſarily have found employment for ſculptors, who were chiefly foreigners, procured by thoſe itinerant prieſts, whoſe cloſe connection and dependance on the papal power, occaſioned frequent journeys to Rome. As their employers were of this ſort, the poor pittance afforded to the artiſt, was an inſufficient inducement to men of abilities to leave their native country, where the arts were, or had been, on a much better eſtabliſhment. Theſe are the true reaſons why the remains of ſculpture of thoſe early times are ſo very indifferent; the engravings of the dies for the coin of our firſt Monarchs, are little more than the ſcrawlings of an infant, and the monſtrous and obſcene productions on many of the old gothic buildings, are indications of an imagination depraved, rude and illiterate. There are indeed ſome exceptions, where the ornaments, in ſome few ſtructures of that date, are executed with judgment and preciſion.

The figure of King John on his tomb, in the cathedral of Worceſter, is the oldeſt work of ſtatuary that we can depend upon, and probably is the work of Peter Cavalini.

Henry the Third, was the firſt royal Patron of the arts in England, he employed the above-mentioned Peter Cavalini, a Roman ſculptor, recommended to him by Ware the abbot of Weſtminſter; this artiſt executed, at the King's charge, the tomb of Edward the confeſſor, a moſt expenſive work; and after Henry's deceaſe, that Monarch's monument in the ſame ſtile, upon which lies the firſt brazen figure made in this country. The four remaining ſtatues on the north ſide, next the weſt end of the Abbey, are probably the works of this artiſt.

There is a great chaſm in the hiſtory of ſculpture, between this reign and that of Edward the Fourth. The continued ſtruggles between the clergy, the pope, the barons, and the kings, and the civil wars of the houſes of York and Lancaſter, were inauſpicious to the polite and liberal arts; and nothing more is recorded of ſculpture in this reign, than that a magnificent altar-piece was erected at Briſtol, by Cummings a ſculptor, repreſenting the reſurrection of Chriſt.

The great expence of a monument erected for the Earl of Warwick, is dated between Henry the Sixth, and the King above-mentioned. Till the reign of Henry the Eighth, we have no accounts of any work of conſequence in this art; the execution of his father's tomb demanded aſſiſtance from thoſe countries where the ſciences were in a more flouriſhing ſtate; Torregiano, a Florentine ſculptor, who had reſided here ſome years, was diſpatched to the place of his nativity, to engage ſome eminent artiſts to his aſſiſtance. Cellini and others accompanied him, and they executed that great work, and ſeveral other monuments in this kingdom, with reputation; this Torregiano was a man of genius, and was extremely jealous of the fame of Michael Angelo, with whom he was contemporary.

Cardinal Wolſey, beginning to execute his own monument in his life-time at Windſor, invited Benedetto, a Florentine, into this country, whom he gratified very nobly and liberally; upon the Cardinal's diſgrace, the King ſeized the unfiniſhed work, and employing the

the ſame artiſt to compleat it, intended to be buried in that place; but numberleſs accidents intervening prevented his deſign, and his ſucceſſors neglecting it, it remains a ruin to this day, and is at preſent a workſhop for the maſons at the caſtle.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, nothing more is recorded than the monument of the Earl of Suſſex, erected in Suffolk, which is ſtill extant, (and was the work of Stephens, who was alſo a painter and a medaliſt;) Dr. Caius's tomb at Cambridge, ſome others of leſs note, the Queen's own monument, which is very magnificently executed in the ſtile of that age, and that of Mary Queen of Scotland; the two laſt were ſet up at the charge of James the Firſt.

Sculpture made a ſurpriſing effort in the reign of King James, in the perſon of Nicholas Stone, he was in great eſteem, and his works very numerous, ſome ſtatues in the Royal Exchange, Spencer's and other tombs in Weſtminſter-Abbey, and monuments for almoſt all the great families in England, are proofs of the abilities and alſo of the encouragement beſtowed on this artiſt.

Some ſculptors of eminence flouriſhed in the reign of Charles the Firſt, (that great admirer of the arts) among whom the moſt eſteemed was Le Soeur, diſciple of John de Boulogne; the braſs ſtatue of the Earl of Pembroke at Oxford, and the equeſtrian figure at Charing-Croſs, are ſufficient proofs of his extenſive genius and maſterly execution.

The protector-ſhip of Cromwell was no favorable æra for the arts, fanaticiſm beheld them as the vehicles of idolatry, and therefore deſtroyed thoſe few precious memorials, which the enthuſiaſtic zeal of the reformers had ſuffered to remain. Statuary was an abſolute breach of the divine ordinances to ſectaries whoſe underſtandings were confined, whoſe ideas were gloomy, and whoſe proceedings were illiberal; no wonder then that the ſciences were almoſt annihilated under ſuch a perſecution.

The reſtoration of Charles the Second preſaged a happy reverſe to the former period. The King had learned to draw *, had ſome knowledge of mechanics, and was fond of ſhip-building; his courtiers too profeſſed the learned ſciences, as well as the liberal

* There are deſigns of his extant.

arts,

arts, and the ſpirit of encouragement ſeemed daily increaſing. Under ſuch advantages ſculpture ſhone with unexpected luſtre, Cibber appeared without a rival, in that excellent bas-relief on the monumental column and the two figures which deſcribe the different effects of madneſs on the gate at Bedlam: and Gibbons, the admired Gibbons! the touches of whoſe chiſel are inconceivably delicate, aroſe the wonder of an admiring people; his productions of the vegetable and animal creation are above deſcription. St. Pauls, Windſor, Petworth, Chatſworth, and the whole united kingdom, conſpire to make his character equal to any age or country, and the ſtatue of James the Second in Privy-Garden, may rank with the productions of the Roman ſchool.

The reign of James the Second produced one ſtatuary, called Quellin, whoſe work, the only piece which can with certainty be aſcribed to him, is the monument of Mr. Thynne, at Weſtminſter-Abbey. The crying boy in this performance is much admired.

In the reign of King William John Buſhnell flouriſhed, he had travelled to Italy, and executed a magnificent monument at Venice: his works on his return to England, were Charles the Firſt and Second, on the front of the Royal-Exchange, and the ſtatues on Temple-Bar, Cowley's monument at Weſtminſter, and others in different counties, which are all marks of his great proficiency in this art; he was an humoriſt in his diſpoſition, for having agreed to furniſh the remaining ſtatues in the Exchange, he was diſguſted with his employers and never compleated them.

Francis Bird lived in the reign of Queen Anne, he had ſtudied his profeſſion in Flanders and Rome, he worked under Gibbons and Cibber, and notwithſtanding ſuch advantages, the monuments at Weſtminſter, that bear his name, and the figures at St. Paul's, are a melancholly inſtance of the truth of a French author's remark; "A legard de la ſculpture," ſays he, "le marbre gemit pour ainſi "dire ſous de ciſeaux auſi peu habiles, que ceux qui ont excecutè "le group de la Reinne Anne, placè devant l'Egliſe de St. Paul, "& le tombeaux de l'Abbaye de Weſtminſter *." Yet Buſby's

* The marble itſelf complains under the cruel chiſels of ſuch unſkilful practitioners as thoſe who cut the group of Queen Anne, in the front of St. Paul's, or the tombs at Weſtminſter.

monument

monument has merit, and we owe him ſome regard for bringing to light one of the ableſt ſculptors of this age; and could the French author above-cited have beheld the rapid improvement in ſculpture in that very place, ſince the time in which he wrote, he would allow and confeſs, that genius is of every nation, and only wants to be drawn forth and cultivated by proper encouragement.

Thus far every endeavour has been uſed to trace out thoſe ſculptors who were eminent at the different periods of our hiſtory, who were moſt of them patronized by the reigning Princes, and perſonally known, honoured and encouraged, by their reſpective patrons.

How different is the ſtate of this noble art at this time, when carpenters, maſons or upholſterers, whoſe utmoſt knowledge is the price of timber, the value of ſtone, or the goodneſs and quality of ticking and feathers, have the ſuperintendancy of thoſe works in which elegance of deſign ought only to be conſulted: Nor can we expect to form a great national character for taſte and elegance under the direction of ſuch perſons, who are furniſhed only with mean ideas and depraved taſtes, the common effects of illiberal education; and yet to ſuch and ſuch only our employers delegate the truſt of ſuperviſing works of elegance, and call them by the borrowed title of ſurveyors. Theſe people are ſo very aſſuming at this time, that not content with inſpecting the goodneſs of bricks and timber, and giving orders to the inferior workmen in the buildings, they pretend to dictate to the man of ſcience, and would deprive him of that merit on which only he can form his reputation, that is, his merit as a deſigner; ſeveral monuments, chimney-pieces, &c. executed under ſuch able directors, are proofs of this aſſertion, and ſo far has this method of entruſting the whole to ſuch perſons care been complied with, that not long ſince a perſon of diſtinction gave his upholſterer orders to repair and finiſh his houſe, and alſo entruſted him with furniſhing his library with what books he thought proper; accordingly the ſagacious tradeſman, having an eye to his own profit, provided him with book-

caſes.

caſes furniſhed with ſham books, declaring that theſe preſſes would contain many things more uſeful than any library in the kingdom. We cannot wonder that foreigners are amazed at proceedings ſo different to their own, and how would they be aſtoniſhed if they were told that the decorations of the moſt conſpicuous houſes in this metropolis are the works of maſons, and that ſculptors are ſeldom conſulted or employed in executing ſuch ornaments.

Happy would it be for this country if we imitated the French in that patriotic prejudice for their own productions, which has rendered them the arbiters of taſte to Europe; the rewards and honours paid to the artiſts of their own nation, have been the great incitement of every work of genius for which they are diſtinguiſhed.

The ſituation in which the liberal arts are held at this time is unfair, diſcouraging and oppreſſive, and while they can be executed by ſubſtitute *; will not eaſily be removed. The noble patron is ſeldom well enough informed or too indolent to ſeek out the man of merit, whoſe talent is concealed, by neceſſity, by diffidence, and many calamitous circumſtances, and whoſe ſpirit is ſubdued by the rapacious diſpoſition of his employer, who enjoys in eaſe and affluence the reputation of thoſe works which he cannot perform. This neglect of employing perſons who are equal to the undertaking is our preſent misfortune, when this bar is removed, the genius of this country will appear no leſs elegant than vigorous.

* This word may poſſibly need explanation, it means therefore that the perſon who receives orders, being often ignorant of deſign, generally produces a drawing made by another for his own performance; this practice was diſcovered by a nobleman, who deſired the perſon to alter the drawing in his preſence, and finding by his evaſions he was impoſed upon by an ignorant pretender, he was irritated ſo much, that he kicked the impoſtor down ſtairs. Another inſtance of making uſe of a ſubſtitute happened when two candidates produced their models of Baſſo Relievo's, before a committee of citizens, who were to determine the preference for a work of conſequence. One of the judges declared in favour of a particular candidate, Becauſe, ſays he, he always employs the very *beſt hands* that can be got. To which the rejected artiſt replied, Yes! yes! he has I confeſs a great advantage over me, who have employed *no hand* but my own.

From the great number of ancient buildings which are to be met with in almoſt every part of the kingdom, it appears at the firſt view to be no very difficult taſk to trace the progreſs of architecture, and at the ſame time to learn ſome account of the perſons who were employed in their conſtruction; but experience has proved the contrary, of ſome of them it is only conjectured they were built about ſuch an æra, and of others, though the preciſe time is known when they were erected, there remains not the leaſt trace by which it can be aſcertained by whom they were deſigned. Whether this defect is owing to the careleſsneſs of employers, who gave themſelves no trouble to record ſuch tranſactions; whether ſuch records have exiſted, but are long ſince loſt; or whether on account of the extreme ignorance of the times the very perſons employed were incapable of tranſmitting any account of their works, is not to be diſcovered: but, certain it is, that very little more can be obtained than that Gothick architecture like other ſciences had its riſe, its ſtate of perfection, and its declenſion.

However, we learn that Gundulphus an architect, built the Tower of London, and that he alſo built the cathedral of Rocheſter; that Peter of Colechurch a prieſt, rebuilt London-Bridge of timber; that William Puintell a ſurveyor, and one Elyas an architect, were employed by King John, in building at Weſtminſter; and that Edward Fitz Odo was an architect in the reign of Henry the Third. But the celebrated William of Wickham, whoſe ſir-name was Perrot, was the great genius of his time, and the only man whoever roſe to ſo great a height by the mere ſtrength of his reputation as an artiſt; he was born, ſays Rapin, in 1324. "After he had "been bred at Wincheſter and Oxford he returned to his patron "Nicholas Wedal, who had been at the charge of his education. "He afterwards became known to Edward the Third, and having "a genius for architecture, was made ſurveyor of the King's "buildings. His direction for rebuilding Windſor Caſtle gave "great ſatisfaction, and occaſioned his promotion at court, where "he paſſed through the offices of Secretary of State, Privy-ſeal, "&c. he was preferred to the ſee of Wincheſter in 1367, and

" ſoon after made Lord Chancellor of England. It is ſaid, be-
" ing repreſented to the King as a man of no learning, and not
" fit for a biſhoprick, he told the King, that what he wanted in
" learning himſelf, he would ſupply with being the founder of
" learning; accordingly he began the building of New College in
" Oxford, and laid the firſt ſtone himſelf, March the firſt, 1379.
" It was finiſhed in ſeven years. In 1387, on the twenty-ſixth of
" March, he likewiſe laid in perſon the firſt ſtone of his college
" at Wincheſter, which he deſigned as a nurſery for that at Oxford.
" Upon this foundation he ſettled an eſtate for a warden, ten fel-
" lows, two ſchoolmaſters, and ſeventy ſcholars. He died in the
" fourth year of Henry the Fourth, aged eighty years, and lies
" buried in St. Swithin's church in Wincheſter, in a ſtately monu-
" ment of his own erecting in his life-time." It is to be lamented that this great man did not pay more regard to the ſcience to which he owed the greatneſs of his fortune, by eſtabliſhing a foundation for the ſtudy of his own art, and others that depend upon it; had he fortunately done this, there is no ſaying what the conſequence might have been; poſſibly by this time it would have been the faſhion for ingenious men to come from Rome hither to perfect themſelves in the arts, and to have bartered Italian for Engliſh performances.

In the Reign of Edward the Third, thoſe noble piles, York minſter, and the cathedral at Ely, were erected; but by whom the deſigns were made we are ignorant. In the ſame reign William Rede, Biſhop of Chicheſter, built the firſt library of Merton college, and alſo the caſtle at Amberley, it has been aſſerted that Sir Reginald Bray, who was a Knight of the Garter in Henry the Seventh's reign, and certainly aſſiſted at the ceremony of the laying the firſt ſtone of the chapel built by that monarch at Weſtminſter, was architect of the chapel of St. George at Windſor *, but there ſeems not to be ſufficient authority for this aſſertion, ſince all the ancient hiſtorians are ſilent upon this head.

* Hiſtory and Antiquities of Windſor Caſtle, pag. 65.

It appears upon an examination of the moſt celebrated Gothick buildings, that the ſtate of perfection of this kind of architecture was in the reigns of Henry the Sixth and Seventh, and not in that of Henry the Fourth, as by miſtake it is ſuppoſed is printed in a late work. But to whatever degree of perfection architecture was arrived in the preceding reign, it is evident that in Henry the Eighth's time it declined extremely faſt; this undoubtedly was owing to the encouragement given by that Prince to ſeveral Italian architects, who being utterly ignorant both of the Roman and Gothick architecture, introduced a kind of mongrel compoſition of their own; an innovation being once made, novelty ſupplied the place of taſte, and that wretched ſtile of building which abounds in every part of the kingdom, and which univerſally prevailed in the Reign of Elizabeth, took place of the more rational and elegant Gothick ſtile. It has been ſaid, that the celebrated painter Holbein, was one of the firſt who introduced this mixed kind of taſte in England, in which he was followed (if not aſſiſted) by John of Padua and others. Hiſtory makes mention of ſeveral other architects, ſuch as Lawrence Bradſhaw, ſurveyor of the King's works, Sir Richard Lea and Thomas Larke, who was alſo ſurveyor of King's college, Cambridge; Jerome de Treveſi an Italian painter, and John Shute, of whom it is remarked, that, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Northumberland ſent him into Italy, and maintained him there in his ſtudies, under the beſt architects; to theſe are added, Robert Adams, ſurveyor of the works, who was an architect of reputation; but, it is certain, that architecture made but a very indifferent figure during theſe times, and remained in a ſtill worſe ſituation during the reign of James the Firſt.

The reign of Charles the Firſt, was propitious to the fine arts; painting has been already obſerved to have flouriſhed in a particular manner in it, nor was architecture in the leaſt behind her ſiſter ſcience; indeed it was next to an impoſſibility the arts ſhould not gain ground under the King's patronage, who was not only an extraordinary judge of ſuch performances, but alſo practiſed himſelf; he therefore knew their value to the ſtate, and accordingly erected a Royal Academy, where gentlemen were admitted for

their education: They were inſtructed in the living and dead languages, mathematicks, painting, architecture, riding, fortification, antiquities, and the ſcience of medals. Profeſſors in every branch were appointed, and Sir Francis Kingſton, in whoſe houſe in Covent-Garden, the academy was held, was appointed regent; but this great deſign fell with the reſt of that Monarch's noble plans, and the French availed themſelves of it, under the patronage of Lewis the Fourteenth. As a proof of the great taſte of King Charles in architecture, it is ſufficient to ſay, that Inigo Jones was his Majeſty's ſurveyor-general of the works; this great man introduced the noble ſtile of building of the Ancients into England. His works, which are executed in ſeveral parts of this city, are univerſally allowed to be the ſtandards of taſte and elegance, his deſign of a palace at Whitehall is a performance which would have done honour to the age of Auguſtus; the Banquetting-Houſe is the only part of that vaſt deſign which was executed, and may be conſidered as the fragment of a monument, which, had it been compleated, would have ſtood a memorial to ſucceeding ages, of the taſte, genius and capacity, of that great artiſt. Some people have affected to find fault with parts of this truly grand deſign; it is ſaid to be an imitation of Palladio, not without a mixture of the Gothick in its turrets; if to imitate Palladio be a fault, it muſt alſo be a fault to imitate the Ancients, which Palladio honeſtly confeſſes he did; and why Inigo Jones, who had undoubtedly ſtudied the Ancients, ſhould be denied the ſame liberty, cannot be very eaſily accounted for. As to the turrets of the palace, it ſeems to be equally difficult to prove they are Gothick, as they are entirely compoſed of the Roman architecture; however, with all its faults, it is only to be wiſhed, that it was erected without alteration, either in the place for which it was originally intended, or elſe in the middle of Hyde-Park. If Inigo ever deſerved cenſure, it was certainly for that monſtrous abſurdity of mixing the Roman and Gothick architecture which he did in erecting a portico of the Corinthian order to the weſt-end of the Gothick church of St. Paul, which was ſoon after deſtroyed by the fire.

Oliver

Oliver Cromwell, if he had been poſſeſſed of taſte, had too much buſineſs upon his hands to give any attention to works of this kind; it is no wonder, therefore, that no other architect is recorded in his time than Francis Carter, who having been chief clerk to Inigo Jones, was made Surveyor of the works.

If the misfortunes of Charles the Firſt were the means of overturning the polite arts, the pleaſures of the court of Charles the Second, were not much more favourable to them. The King had no great taſte for the arts, and the countenance he gave to ſome of the profeſſors, ſeems to have been partial and confined; however, he, in a particular manner, patronized the celebrated Vandevelde ‡, to whom it is ſaid, he allowed a veſſel compleatly manned and victualled for the purpoſes of his ſtudies, and even went ſo far as to have ſeveral ſhips at times drawn out, in order to make mock-engagements for the uſe of this artiſt. Notwithſtanding the general inattention ſhown to the arts, this reign produced the celebrated Sir Chriſtopher Wren, who was unqueſtionably the greateſt geometrical and mathematical architect that ever exiſted, and ſeveral of his buildings evidently prove that he poſſeſſed more extent of invention than Inigo Jones, though, in point of elegance, he fell ſhort of that maſter. The publick works of Sir Chriſtopher Wren are numerous and well-known, nor indeed need any other than that of St. Paul's be mentioned to eſtabliſh his reputation.

As St. Paul's church is the principal work of this maſter, and undoubtedly the only work of the ſame magnitude that ever was compleated by one man, it may not be altogether improper to make a few obſervations upon this celebrated ſtructure. The diviſion of the building into two orders is undoubtedly a great fault, it would have had a much nobler effect, had one only been uſed; as it is, the lower part of the church ſeems to be the work of one maſter, and the dome of another, the periſtylum of which is very fine, and perfectly adapted to finiſh one ſingle order, but, as it is, appears too heavy; the lower part of the church is extremely elegant, but does not harmonize with the upper, the columns of the periſtylum being much larger, in proportion to their diſtance, than

‡ Though few of his performances are extant in the Royal Palaces.

the

the columns of the portico. Indeed one of the moſt capital errors in the conſtruction of this church is, the neglecting to ſhew the proper dependency of one part upon the other, and a regular harmonious gradation from the foundation to the ſummit of the ſuperſtructure; perhaps, if the diſproportion between the length and breadth of the whole building had not been ſo great, it might have produced a more noble effect, a more elegant ſhape, and an opportunity of forming the due connection between the dome and the lower part of the building, which now ſeems to ſtand in need of ſuch an union, by the former appearing to reſt upon the roof.

It has been urged in excuſe, for the choice of introducing two orders, that the want of a proper ſpace for viewing the building compelled the architect to execute it in the manner he has done; this may be a fact, but it is pity that ſuch a trifling conſideration had any weight at all with him. Had he purſued his own better judgment as to the propriety of the building, it might have one time proved the means of obtaining a proper point of view for this vaſt deſign, and neceſſity might have obliged the publick to do that which nothing but neceſſity can ever force them to do, for as yet very little attention has been paid to publick magnificence. With regard to the turrets, it muſt be confeſſed, they are light and elegant, but with reſpect to grandeur, their upper parts conſiſt of rather too many diviſions, which produce ſomething like confuſion, and, if they had been more ſpread, or ſet further apart, it would have given a grace to the weſt-front of the church, and it would have prevented their falling in the view upon the periſtylum of the dome. The figures upon the top of the building alſo contribute towards diminiſhing the grandeur of the lower parts; the human figure is the ſtandard or ſcale by which the proportions of all bodies are determined, that is, whether they are large or ſmall, and, even at this vaſt height, ſhould not have exceeded ſeven feet and an half, which is a very large proportion for life; however they are rather more than twelve feet high, and, upon being compared with the upper and lower orders, prodigiouſly decreaſe the grandeur of the columns. Had the church been compoſed of one order,

theſe figures might have ſuited tolerably well, but even in that caſe they would have been too large; the niches on the outſide of the church ought to be ſupplied with ſtatues; the want of which gives a character of meanneſs, for they were certainly deſigned as places for ſuch ornaments; a group of figures is alſo wanting at the eaſt-end of the church, which at preſent abſolutely ſtands in need of a finiſhing of ſome kind or other; for the ſame reaſon, the pedeſtals upon the baluſtrade, upon which there are no figures, ought to be decorated with vaſes or urns; this was Sir Chriſtopher Wren's original intention, but, like many others of the ſame nature, was never complied with.

The church of St. Paul is, in ſome reſpects, ſuperior to that of St. Peter's at Rome; the weſt-front is deſigned more in character, that is, it has more the appearance of a building deſigned for publick worſhip. St. Peter's rather gives the idea of a front of a palace, and the pediment is mean and trifling; the dome of St. Paul's is more elegantly ſhaped, nor is there any compariſon between the lanterns on the top; that of St. Peter's is heavy and clumſy, and produces an ill effect, but the body of the church, being compoſed of one order, is very grand and noble, though it ſuffers by an introduction of parts which are rather too minute. The interior parts of St. Peter's are many of them extremely noble, and the monuments and decorations are grand, and introduced with a decorum and propriety, which no way affects or deforms the building, a conſideration hardly ever attended to in this country. The high altar, which was deſigned and executed by the celebrated Bernini, is perhaps the nobleſt work of its kind that ever was performed: This truly magnificent decoration is moſt judiciouſly placed under the center of the dome, and produces the fineſt effect imaginable; in ſhort, nothing trifling or unbecoming the dignity of the church is ſuffered to be placed in it; but notwithſtanding the profuſion of elegance and grandeur which are diſplayed in this celebrated building, there are many defects, and ſome capital errors to be found in the deſign; for inſtance, the grand iſle of the church is one continued arched vault, without variety, the whole being compoſed of

pannels

pannels and roſes, and the windows are broken into it, in ſo aukward a manner, that they appear rather to be after-thoughts, and are entirely unconnected with the decorations of the cieling. Sir Chriſtopher Wren's judgment pointed out this taſteleſs deformity, and the ſuperiority of the grand iſle of St. Paul's, in this reſpect, is very apparent, in which the windows are regularly introduced into the cieling, and the architecture forms the moſt noble frames, which he deſigned for the reception of paintings; and it is to be hoped, that one time or other this part of his deſign will be executed, which, if it ever ſhould be, and the frames elegantly gilt, will produce one of the richeſt and moſt glorious roofs that can be conceived. However, it is rather to be wiſhed, that this church may remain in its preſent ſtate, than that any mean, taſteleſs trifles ſhould be permitted, ſuch as monuments of obſcure perſons, which could only deform, inſtead of becoming decorations to ſo noble a pile. The cathedral of St. Paul's ſuffers greatly for want of decorations both in painting and ſculpture, there cannot be a more convincing proof than the example of the dome itſelf, which is painted and gilt, after viewing this noble object, the ſpectator finds nothing worth attending to, the reſt is a mere blank, nor can all the beauties of the moſt noble and regular architecture, make amends for the deſolate appearance of the naked pannels which every where preſent themſelves to his notice; at the ſame time reproaching in the moſt ſtriking manner, that total want of national taſte, which can ſuffer one of the fineſt churches in the world to give no better an idea than that of a carver's ſhop, in which there is uſually great choice of fine frames, but not one picture to be ſeen.

There is not perhaps a greater fault in the interior contrivance of this church, than that of perforating the eaſt end of it. The prodigious glare of light produced by this means is uſeleſs and offenſive, and totally deſtroys the grandeur and effect of the church in that part. Indeed this is a fault common in all our churches, but it never fails of rendering the altar obſcure, which is an obſervation of the truth of which every one may be convinced by a little attention. In the preſent caſe however, it not only produces

duces this diſguſting effect, but it has alſo prevented the making a proper uſe of this part, which undoubtedly ſhould have been decorated with an altar of the utmoſt magnificence. The whole church, for want of ſuch an object, is deplorably deficient in a part where decoration is undeniably neceſſary; the two middle windows therefore, ought to be ſtopped up, and the altar deſigned ſomething like that propoſed in a ſection of this church publiſhed by the Author in conjunction with Mr. Wale, in the year 1755.

As St. Paul's is ſuperior to St. Peter's in ſome reſpects, ſo it ought to have been in the whole; and as St. Peter's was erected long before it, the greateſt care and attention ſhould have been uſed to improve upon every part of that deſign where improvement was poſſible; otherwiſe, as it has been before urged in the example of a palace, it is pity it was erected at all; the fund allowed for defraying the charge of building it was equal to any expence that could have been beſtowed, for which reaſon, as well as the honour of this nation, it ſhould have been made, in point of magnitude and elegance, the firſt building of its kind in the world, and not the ſecond, for the whole length of St. Paul's meaſures no more than the width of St. Peter's, and the practice of building by too ſmall a ſcale is almoſt univerſal in this kingdom; but even the original deſign was not well enough digeſted, as appears by the many alterations which Sir Chriſtopher Wren made in the progreſs of this work, for ſome of which it is ſuppoſed he was obliged to Sir James Thornhill, whoſe taſte in architecture was very great *; nor was this the favourite deſign of the architect, there is a model now to be ſeen in St. Paul's church compoſed of one order, which he preferred, and which is ſuperior to the preſent in many reſpects.

Bow ſteeple and Walbrook church are examples which ought by no means to be omitted, as they are perhaps as elegant as any

* It is to be obſerved that ſome of the beſt architects have been produced from among the profeſſors of painting and ſculpture Raffaelle, Michal Angelo, Bernini, Peter da Cortona and others were great architects, and the three firſt were employed in compleating St. Peter's church. In England, Holbein, Inigo Jones, Kent and Sir James Thornhill were painters, this laſt built the houſe in More Park in Hertfordſhire, which is eſteemed a building of good taſte, he alſo made a great many deſigns in architecture, and his decorations were extremely elegant and truly architectonick.

thing of their kind in Europe. However, Sir Chriſtopher was guilty of the ſame impropriety as Inigo, in mixing Gothick with Roman architecture, as may be ſeen in Guild-Hall, the Court of Requeſts, and the palace of Hampton-Court, nor was his taſte in ſmaller buildings very good, as may be obſerved by St. Paul's School and Marlborough-Houſe: He lived to a great age, and what is pretty extraordinary, compleated St. Paul's church thirty-ſeven years after he had himſelf laid the firſt ſtone.

It is greatly to be lamented that Sir Chriſtopher did not give the world his theory, and an ample account of his practice in the building of St. Paul's, ſuch a work would have been of infinite uſe to ſucceeding architects, and no man was more capable of giving ſuch an account than himſelf, nor would this work have been uſeful only to architects, other profeſſions would have been benefited by it, as many ingenious contrivances made uſe of in the conſtruction of that vaſt pile would have been of prodigious uſe in a great variety of undertakings †. The

† The great injury the ingenious part of the world have ſuſtained by the loſs of Sir Chriſtopher Wren's papers, and the account of the building Weſtminſter Bridge by Mr. Labelye, are ſtriking inſtances of the neceſſity of preſerving ſuch memorials. In order therefore to prevent misfortunes of the like nature, it is to be wiſhed that when any conſiderable work of this kind is began, the perſon under whoſe direction it is carried on ſhould be required to keep an accurate journal of the proceedings, and alſo to give an ample deſcription of the uſe (accompanied with a draught) of every engine or machine made uſe of in the courſe of the work, for which ſervice he ſhould be properly recompenced. And in order to render ſuch records of univerſal benefit ro mankind, if an hiſtoriographical office, for mechanical works, &c. was to be eſtabliſhed, it would be extremely uſeful, in which office theſe accounts ſhould be preſerved from time to time, and after having been carefully corrected, publiſhed at the expence of the publick. For this purpoſe a perſon properly qualified as an hiſtorian, and alſo deſigners, engravers and painters might be employed by the office, and conſequently every thing valuable of this kind would be effectually ſecured to the world and to poſterity; this office might alſo be further extended, for the benefit of ingenious perſons who ſhould by ſtudy and application produce any uſeful work which their circumſtances might not permit them to publiſh, at leaſt not in a manner worthy the attention of the publick, ſuch perſons therefore upon making application, and proving the utility of their performances, ſhould receive aſſiſtance, and the work be publiſhed at the expence of the office, who might reimburſe themſelves by the ſale, and the profit ariſing from it, be given to the author of the performance. An office of the like kind might alſo be eſtabliſhed for geographical works, by which means his Majeſty's engineers might be employed in times of peace to make ſurveys of every part of

The reign of James the Second produced nothing of conſequence, and architecture as well as every other uſeful art was neglected.

In the reign of King William appeared William Talman, who was a very ingenious architect; he built Chatſworth, the ſeat of the Duke of Devonſhire, and ſeveral houſes for many of the Nobility, in different parts of the kingdom; he had formed his taſte by travelling, and had, with incredible labour and aſſiduity, deſigned a prodigious number of buildings and monuments, and indeed every thing in architecture which he thought worth his attention in the courſe of his travels, all of which are finiſhed with the greateſt exactneſs, and moſt of them ſtained in their proper colours. His collection was ſold ſome years ago in Covent-Garden. Sir William Wilſon, was alſo an architect in this reign, but as his works are not known, no judgment can be formed of his abilities. Marot was architect to the King, but what were his productions, in this country, are uncertain, his deſigns which he etched and publiſhed, are however a convincing proof that no man underſtood decorations better than himſelf.

The reign of Queen Anne produced the moſt ſingular architect that perhaps ever appeared in any age or country, Sir John Vanbrugh, a man of wit and genius, who as a writer, was excelled by few, as an architect, condemned by every body; perhaps it was chiefly owing to his merit as an Author that he was ſo ill treated as an artiſt, the offence his wit gave to his contemporaries was

of the Britiſh dominion, at the ſame time giving an exact deſcription of every city, town and village, and alſo the courſe of every river, brook, &c. with their ſections, together with thoſe of mountains, hills, &c. which would be of infinite uſe in the joining of rivers, for the purpoſe of making them navigable; to this might be added, a natural hiſtory of each country, and conjectures for the improvement of different places; it is needleſs to point out the advantages ariſing to the publick from ſuch an eſtabliſhment, not to mention that it would at once be profitable to our engineers, and at the ſame time render them, by continual practice, ſuperior to any others in Europe; perhaps, in time, the union of the Trent, Severn, and Thames, a ſcheme long ſince talked of, might, in conſequence of ſuch a plan, be put in execution, which would be both a noble and truly uſeful work. To both theſe eſtabliſhments, a third might be added, for the ſtudy of naval architecture, which is much wanted, in this the art of ſhip-building ſhould be ſcientifically and practically taught, and, from this valuable reſource, a continual ſupply of experienced artiſts might be taken, who ſhould have the direction of the works in the Royal Dock-Yards.

amply revenged by them in criticiſms on his buildings, and as his ſtile was ſo extremely ſingular, they never wanted materials to exerciſe their talents. As an architect he was indeed generally a romantick caſtle builder. What were his ideas of architecture, it is hard to ſay; he undoubtedly had a ſyſtem of his own, and it is to be lamented, that ſo able a writer has not left ſome account of his principles, and his reaſons for building in the manner he did, they would have proved entertaining at leaſt, and, in ſome reſpects, would certainly have been uſeful, for however juſtly he may have been cenſured in many things, yet it cannot be denied that his ideas were great and noble, and he perfectly underſtood that ſubordination of parts ſo very neceſſary in the conſtruction of great buildings ‡, though, at the ſame time he was entirely deficient in point of elegance and decorum; an evident proof of which he has given in the palace of Blenheim, which on account of this very ſubordination, its quantity and variety of parts never fails to ſtrike us with the idea of a grandeur and magnificence rarely to be found in any other building, notwithſtanding which this very ſtructure has, from the deficiences before-mentioned, undergone the moſt ſevere cenſure, and been univerſally condemned, becauſe it is not in the common ſtile of building, and perhaps becauſe it was built

‡ Grandeur and elegance are what is required, in publick buildings, to give ſatisfaction to the eye, the former ſurpriſes, and the later, without a proper ſubordination of parts, is only richneſs; many Gothick buildings are examples of this kind, the Chapel of Henry the Seventh, in particular, is a cluſter of richneſs, the New Church in the Strand, is not only an example of richneſs, but the parts are alſo elegant, and the whole being divided into two orders, the parts of each are ſmall, and the ſubordination (without which there can be no greatneſs of manner) is deſtroyed. Had ſuch a portico as that of St. Martin's Church been placed there, and the church been like that compoſed only of one order, it is very eaſy to conceive what a different effect it would have had upon the ſpectator. Lord Spencer's houſe, in the Green-Park, is another example of this kind, that which ought to be the ſubordinate part (the baſement) is too large, and the ſtate ſtory, which ſhould be the principal, is too ſmall, conſequently the ſubordination is deſtroyed, and the effect of that which ought to be the principal, is, by this equality of parts, rendered otherwiſe, the ſame error has been likewiſe committed in the deſign of the front of the Treaſury.

by

by Sir John Vanbrugh. This gentleman's productions are very numerous, and it is ſomething extraordinary, that notwithſtanding his deſigns were almoſt univerſally condemned, he ſhould have been employed in building ſo many conſiderable works, Caſtle Howard in Yorkſhire; the Duke of Newcaſtle's houſe at Claremont, and a great number of ſeats in this kingdom were built by him, and the Opera-Houſe in the Hay-Market is no contemptible proof of his genius and abilities, though it is certain that there are too many examples of his deſigns which appear to be the mere effects of whim and caprice.

No architect, except Sir Chriſtopher Wren, ever had a better opportunity of diſplaying his genius in the great ſtile of architecture than Gibbs, he was employed in building and repairing ſeveral of the principal churches in London, and he has acquitted himſelf upon the whole tolerably well. The church of St. Martin's in the Fields is eſteemed one of the beſt in this city, though far from being ſo fine as it is uſually repreſented to be, the abſurd ruſtication of the windows, and the heavy ſills and truſſes under them are unpardonable blemiſhes, and very improperly introduced into this compoſition of the Corinthian order, as it takes away the delicacy which ſhould be preſerved in this kind of building. The ſteeple itſelf is good, but it is ſo contrived that it ſeems to ſtand upon the roof of the church, there being no appearance of its continuation from the foundation, and conſequently it ſeems to want ſupport, an error of which he is not alone guilty, but which is very elegantly and judiciouſly avoided in the turrets in the front of St. Paul's, indeed the ſpire of the ſteeple of St. Martin's church being formed by internal ſweeps makes the angles too acute, which always produces an ill effect; this has been judiciouſly avoided in the ſteeple of St. Giles's, which was a good improvement upon the other, but much deformed by the abſurd ruſtication of the ſpire. The practice of ruſticating ſhould never be carried higher than the baſement of a building. Upon the whole, St. Martin's church is compoſed in a grand ſtile of one order, the portico is truly noble, and wants nothing but the advantage of being ſeen in the manner propoſed in the annexed plan. The New Church in the Strand is another of Mr. Gibbs's

perfor-

performances, but is an expenſive rich deſign without the leaſt appearance of grandeur, which is occaſioned by its being divided into too many parts, a building may be made in parts very elegant and very rich, and yet very inelegant in the whole, which is the caſe of this church, the diviſion of the building into two orders has deſtroyed its grandeur, the ſteeple is a confuſed jumble of rich parts piled one upon another, without any regard to the ſhape of the whole, and has this additional fault, like that of St. Martin's before-mentioned, it appears to ſtand upon the roof of the church. Gibbs alſo deſigned St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital and a great number of houſes for perſons of diſtinction, but there appears nothing uncommon or new in them, and he was rather a manneriſt in things of this kind. He likewiſe made deſigns for rebuilding King's College in Cambridge, in which he made that elegant Gothick building, the chapel, form one ſide of the quadrangle, and the three other ſides he deſigned in the modern ſtile, without any regard to the part already built, though he confeſſes that this chapel is the fineſt Gothick pile he ever ſaw. This cuſtom of mixing Gothick and Modern architecture in the ſame pile of buildings, has alſo been practiſed in the univerſity of Oxford, with great ſucceſs, and ſerves to ſhew that very little attention is paid to taſte and elegance in places where one would expect to find hardly any thing elſe. If theſe things are ſuffered to be done merely becauſe they may produce variety, they ſhould be told, that variety may be produced in Gothick architecture without changing the ſtile, and that at the ſame time a harmony may be produced without deſtroying the connection of what is already built; in ſhort, very great, noble and elegant things may be done in the Gothick taſte, and, with proper attention, not prove ſo expenſive as may be imagined. Gibbs has alſo given another inſtance of this erroneous practice at Derby, where he has to a fine rich Gothick ſteeple, added a church of the Tuſcan order, which he expreſly ſays, in his account of that work, is ſuitable to the old ſteeple‡.

This

‡ There is an inſtance of this abſurd mixture in the Gothick chapel at Eaton, where the ſcreen which ſupports the organ-gallery is of the Doric order, and the altar of the Corinthian; this laſt is ſo glaring an abſurdity, that it muſt always offend the eye of the judicious obſerver. Sir Henry Wootton, who wrote that excellent

This account of the progreſs of architecture in England, cannot be concluded with more propriety than by the mention of a name which would do honour to any age or nation, and though his rank in life will not permit his being claſſed among architects by profeſſion, yet he undoubtedly merits, as a man of ſcience, the greateſt honour as an architect. The late Earl of Burlington was not only the Mecænas of architecture, but was himſelf a great architect; he not only protected and encouraged the moſt ingenious men of this profeſſion, but condeſcended to put in practice the great taſte and knowledge he poſſeſſed in ſo eminent a degree. He deſigned the aſſembly houſe at York, the weſt front of General Wade's houſe in Burlington Gardens, the dormitory at Weſtminſter-ſchool, and repaired the church of St. Paul Covent Garden at his own expence, in honour to the memory of his admired Inigo Jones; and as a further proof of his veneration for that great man, he publiſhed a moſt noble collection of his deſigns, a work that does honour to his own taſte and to the Engliſh nation. This Nobleman patronized Kent, who lived in his houſe, nor was his patronage denied to others, many of whom he eſtabliſhed and favoured in a particular manner; in ſhort, it may be ſaid that he not only encouraged architects, but that it is entirely owing to him that architecture has any exiſtence amongſt us.

Engraving, is an invention which does incredible honour to the moderns, and in point of utility, next to that of printing, is of the utmoſt conſequence to mankind, ſince by means of this art the forms of many uſeful ingenious contrivances are preſerved which would otherwiſe be irrecoverably loſt to poſterity, this art is the only one that can be ſaid to be actually in a flouriſhing ſtate among us, to aſſert the contrary would be an act of injuſtice, but it muſt be remembered that it is entirely owing to the efforts of a few

excellent book, entitled, Elements of Architecture, was maſter of Eaton college, but it cannot be ſuppoſed this was executed in his time. The ſchool alſo is built in the modern ſtile, and ſaid to be the work of Inigo Jones, while the reſt of the buildings are entirely Gothick. In our own times another of theſe abſurdities has been introduced between the two palace yards at Weſtminſter, cloſe to the Hall, which is entirely out of character, and proves that the preſent age are little better than the Goths they affect to deſpiſe.

private

private perſons, and not to any particular encouragement from the great, that this branch of the polite arts is in a ſtate ſo flouriſhing. It was, according to Mr. Walpole's account, introduced into this kindgom not long after its firſt diſcovery, and practiſed with indifferent ſucceſs, by a number of perſons whoſe chief performances were commonly confined to frontiſpieces for books. The celebrated Faithorne, however, is very juſtly ranked as the foremoſt of the engravers of this nation, and he certainly was a very elegant and accurate artiſt, but as the gentleman who has honoured his memory, (as well as many others who were not ſo deſerving) judiciouſly obſerves, the Engliſh engravers formerly had not the opportunities they now have of copying the fineſt pictures in the univerſe; they very rarely engraved hiſtorical ſubjects or landſcapes; and it is to be lamented that Faithorne, who drew admirably, had not been employed by ſome lover of the art, in engraving ſubjects of more conſequence, had this been done, it is impoſſible to ſay what might have been produced by his labours, it is not to be doubted but his works would have excelled or at leaſt have equalled the beſt of the French engravers. The honourable author above-mentioned, to whom the arts will for ever ſtand indebted, for the care and pains he has taken on their account, has however, (I ſuppoſe, by the vaſt difficulty of arranging and digeſting Mr. Vertue's materials) omitted to do that juſtice to ſeveral Engliſh artiſts in this branch which they deſerve, and which he certainly would have done had it not been owing to want of better information. Certainly no living artiſt need wiſh to have a more candid and faithful biographer, and it is to be feared that ſucceeding candidates for fame, will hardly find one of his rank, abilities and candour, to record their lives and performances. He has, however, to mention two inſtances only, omitted to give that due ſhare of praiſe to the mezzotintos of George White, which they undoubtedly deſerved; his head of Baptiſte the flower painter, is ſuperior to old Smith, or to any thing of the kind that ever was executed *. Du Guernier, who for want of a due con-

* If the Engliſh have not yet come up to the French in hiſtorical engraving, they have excelled the whole world in the branches of architecture and mezzotinto.

ſideration

ſideration of his works, he has but ſlightly mentioned, was the moſt extraordinary engraver of ſmall figures that ever was in this country, not to mention that he was a man of genius alſo, and conſtantly worked after his own deſigns; his plates to Hughes's edition of Spencer's Fairy Queen are undoubted proofs of his genius and execution, as indeed are his deſigns and engravings in general.

It having been before aſſerted, that the art of engraving is at this time in a flouriſhing ſtate, it is of conſequence ſincerely to be wiſhed that the engravers themſelves would uſe their utmoſt efforts to improve that degree of reputation they have already acquired, in order to which they ſhould perpetually keep in mind, that the beſt engravers have always been thoſe who drew beſt, that Faithorne was an excellent draughtſman, that both the Whites were good deſigners, that old Smith not only drew well, but was conſtantly corrected by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and that Du Guernier was admirable in this great and eſſential branch of the art. Drawing is the ſoul of engraving, and it is certain that he who can draw well will execute better and with more facility than he who with infinite labour and the moſt perplexing uncertainty, drudges at that which nothing but patience, and the moſt ſervile helps, can poſſibly enable him to execute with any tolerable degree of reputation.

There is one dreadful evil attending the purſuits of this particular ſet of artiſts, which is extremely diſcouraging, and that is, want of ſecurity in their property; for the penalty inflicted by the act paſſed in their favour is ſo inconſiderable, that it is hardly any impediment to piratical works. When one of theſe perſons therefore has with great ingenuity, care and application, produced a performance which does his country and himſelf honour, and hopes to receive the reward of his merit, ſome wretch who is perpetually upon the watch for ſuch an opportunity, cauſes his work to be copied and inſtantly deprives him of every advantage he had hoped from its publication †; ſurely works of this kind ought to be ſecured to the artiſt and his heirs, or at leaſt for a term equal to that allowed for

† The circumſtance is equally grievous with reſpect to copying models or original caſts in plaſter, which often prevents the publication of many ingenious productions in that way.

literary productions, for the act of parliament is very inſecure and precarious by not decreeing coſts of ſuits with damages. It would be equally juſtifiable, if after an honeſt farmer had with infinite pains and great expence manured and ſown his land, ſome raſcally neighbour ſhould wait the time of harveſt and immediately cut down his corn and put the produce into his own pocket, nor would it be more juſtifiable if through fear, this harpy waited until the time of his deceaſe, for in that caſe his heirs have an undoubted right to the produce of his labour; and ſhall the property of ingenious men alone be thus expoſed to the ravages of ſuch miſcreants without hope of redreſs? The man who is not poſſeſſed of a certain income is expreſly forbid under ſevere penalties, by the laws of this nation, to deſtroy the animal which has helped to conſume his ſubſtance, and in this caſe there is a near reſemblance between the farmer and engraver, the latter has no remedy, and muſt be contented with the gleanings of the field when he had an undoubted right to the whole crop; that this is unhappily the caſe, is notoriouſly verified in regard to the works of one of the greateſt maſters that this or any other nation has produced. Mr. Hogarth's works will be always valued and admired, and therefore ought to be as much the property of his widow, as if their value had been laid out in the purchaſe of an eſtate, of which it is to be preſumed no one could poſſibly have deprived her, and yet this lady has been compelled to inform the world that her property has been invaded, (ſhe might have added herſelf inſulted) and that the publick are in perpetual danger of being impoſed upon by ſpurious copies, and herſelf deprived of every advantage ſhe hoped would ariſe by the ſale of the works of that inimitable maſter.

It is greatly to be regretted that ſuitable incouragement is not given to one very noble and uſeful branch of this art, which is that of engraving medals. This it is confeſſed cannot be done any other way than by particular appointments, as there could not be a ſufficient demand from the publick to render it worth the while of any artiſt to dedicate his whole time to this particular part; a part, however, which to attain to in any degree of perfection, would undoubtedly demand the entire attention of a life

if

if it were prolonged to double the number of years allotted to mankind. The coins and medals of every country have been looked upon as the diſtinguiſhing marks of their riſe, perfection and declenſion, and are to be conſidered as ſo many brief hiſtories of the ſtate of the arts at the time they were executed. No annals produce greater atchievements than thoſe of Britain, nor no nation has recorded in this manner ſo inconſiderable a number.

It has been aſſerted by ſome French authors, that the Engliſh are at leaſt a century behind their nation in the polite arts, perhaps when a proper allowance has been made for the vanity of that people, we may not be found altogether ſo far behind them as they would chuſe to throw us, but at the ſame time we muſt acknowledge there is too much truth in that part of the aſſertion which gives them the ſuperiority in general over us.

This fact being allowed, it may be worth while to inquire into the reaſon of this ſubordination, and to what cauſe it is owing that we have ever followed and ſtill continue to follow, in this reſpect, a nation which in many others we have an undoubted right to precede. It cannot be owing to the want of genius or capacity, for genius and capacity are alike diſtributed to the inhabitants of the whole earth, it muſt therefore neceſſarily proceed from the effects of habit or cuſtom. It is an eſtabliſhed maxim that cuſtom is ſecond nature, and education with us is uſually founded on cuſtom. It has been cuſtomary therefore with the Engliſh ſeldom to conſider the inclination of their children, but indiſcriminately to adopt the ſame mode of education without any kind of diſtinction; thus thoſe whoſe genius leads them to the church, to the law, and to the arts, &c. and thoſe who have no genius at all, are educated in the ſame manner, and are frequently, through the inattention or caprice of their parents, placed in the very ſituations which ſhould have been avoided, and in which they conſequently can never make any kind of figure. Indeed it is greatly to be lamented that education is not made a publick concern, that is, that ſome effectual method is not taken to prevent perſons who are not qualified, from undertaking to teach children ſuch things as they themſelves are totally ignorant of, or but very ſlenderly acquainted with. There have been more than

one inſtance of ſchool maſters who could not read. It is utterly impoſſible that genius or capacity can be national, though there have not been wanting ſome who have aſſerted this as a fact, and who have been as liberal in the commendation of the genius of the Italians and French, as they have been induſtrious in decrying that of their own countrymen; but theſe idolaters of foreign genius ought to be informed that cuſtom or the mode of education has a greater ſhare in the formation of this admired genius of foreigners than they may perhaps be able to comprehend; in order to explain this matter more fully, let an infant be ſuppoſed to be brought from China and educated in England, and it may be eaſily conceived that he will turn out as errant an Engliſhman, as if he had been born of Engliſh parents, his purſuits of whatever kind will be perfectly Engliſh, nor can it be imagined that though according to the ſuppoſition of the above-mentioned gentlemen, ſuch a perſon's genius muſt be purely Chineſe, that the porcelain manufacture in this kingdom would receive any conſiderable improvement from the acquiſition of this extraordinary foreigner.

It has been granted that the ſtate of the arts in France has the ſuperiority, but it has alſo been denied that the French poſſeſs any ſuperiority of genius. No one will pretend to ſay that in reſpect of learning or ſcientifical knowledge, this nation cannot produce their equals if not ſuperiors, for literature and ſcience conſtitute a Britiſh education: It will be found that England has produced men of extraordinary erudition, and may with juſtice boaſt of the greateſt names in divinity, phyſick, law, mathematicks, &c. in poetry we have equalled if not excelled other countries, and every Engliſhman reflects on it with pleaſure; but unfortunately for painting, though we have painters in every branch equal in all, and ſuperior in ſome, yet the general cry is, there is no painting in England, this is not the ſoil for painting. Yet numberleſs inſtances may be produced, that painters are not wanting notwithſtanding the many diſadvantages the art now labours under. In France they enjoy the advantage of every neceſſary publick eſtabliſhment that can any way cultivate or improve the polite arts which by cuſtom or habit, are become a neceſſary as well as beneficial part of education. In England no ſuch eſtabliſhment exiſts,

exiſts, inſtead of meeting with encouragement and cultivation, the arts are left to ſtruggle for themſelves (ſome feeble efforts of the ſociety in the Strand excepted) and inſtead of their being made a part of education, the youth of this country are only drenched with the dead languages until their ſtomachs loath and nauſeate every thing that wears the appearance of taſte and knowledge, and conſequently, inſtead of encouragers of learning and arts, they in time become only the patrons of buffoons, cheats and horſe-courſers.

To this eſſential defect therefore in point of education is entirely owing that injurious circumſtance ſo often and ſo juſtly complained of by the ingenious artiſts of this country, namely, want of encouragement; for how is it poſſible, (let his rank in life be ever ſo much elevated) that any man ſhould become a competent judge of what it is utterly impoſſible, from his want of education, he can ever truly underſtand? He who can only read his mother tongue will never be able to explain a paſſage in a Latin author, nor can it be expected that the Nobleman who is utterly ignorant of the polite arts can form a proper judgment of an ingenious performance, or eſtimate with propriety the reward he ſhould beſtow on the artiſt who has laboured to give him pleaſure, which he knows not how to enjoy, and which for that very reaſon, he will be at a loſs how to recompence in a manner ſuitable to his own dignity and the merit of the artiſt. If it is indiſpenſibly neceſſary that an artiſt ſhould, by unwearied application and unremitted ſtudy, make himſelf a maſter of the art he profeſſes in order to render his works worthy the approbation of the great, is it not equally neceſſary that his employer, who ought to be ſuppoſed his ſuperior in every reſpect, ſhould be furniſhed with at leaſt as much knowledge of the art he patronizes as will inable him to form a judgment of the degree of excellence with which it is executed.

There is another conſideration why it may be wiſhed that taſte and judgment was more cultivated among the great, it would be the means, in all probability, of reſcuing numbers of ingenious artiſts in inferior branches from a mean dependance on the tyrrany of mercenary tradeſmen, who (though the very means of their exiſtence is owing to the labours of theſe artiſts) treat them with

a rigour and contempt more unreaſonable than that exerciſed by the Algerines over their ſlaves, becauſe this treatment is inflicted upon theſe men in a land of liberty.

But in whatever degree of eſtimation the genius of the people of England may be held by ſome who affect to deſpiſe it, thus much is certain, that there is not a greater dearth of genius among the artiſts, than of taſte and judgment among thoſe upon whom they depend for encouragement, and it may be ſafely pronounced that whenever taſte and judgment gain ground among the great, genius in its brighteſt form will be found in the productions of the artiſts of this kingdom. When it is conſidered in what univerſal eſteem the arts have been held in France for more than a century paſt, when it is conſidered that the French nobility, inſtead of holding the ingenious men of their own nation in contempt, have vied with each other in admiring and encouraging every attempt towards the cultivation of the arts, and from a national affection have believed, and perſuaded others to believe, that their own countrymen are more ingenious and more capable than any other people in Europe; it cannot be wondered that the arts have made ſo great a progreſs among them, indeed, conſidering the encouragement that has been given, it is more to be wondered that they have not excelled in a greater degree, more eſpecially in painting, for in engraving no nation has yet equalled the French.

From what has been ſaid relative to the encouragement given to the French artiſts by the nobility of that kingdom, it is natural to turn our eyes towards our own country and conſider how and in what manner artiſts and their works are treated among us. If it ſhould be ſaid that the arts are totally neglected in Great-Britain, and that no encouragenment is given to the profeſſors, it would be doing an abſolute injuſtice to many of the nobility and perſons of fortune who are known to be men of taſte and judgment, and who have not only abilities to diſcover merit wherever merit is to to be found, but have ſpirit and generoſity to reward it equal to that of any nation whatever; to point out theſe would be to expoſe our country by diſcovering the deplorable inequality of number between thoſe

who have real taſte and thoſe who have none at all. Thoſe among the great who love and encourage the arts are, and ought to be admired, thoſe who neither love nor encourage them, becauſe nature or education has denied them the happineſs of underſtanding them, are to be pitied, but thoſe who are deſirous of poſſeſſing works of ingenuity and at the ſame time are mean ſpirited enough to endeavour at the gratification of their wiſhes by debaſing the work and deſtroying the artiſt, ought to be deteſted; if there are any ſuch, how mean, how wretched and deſpicable muſt they appear, how infinitely below the general character of Engliſhmen, and to what pitiful ſhifts muſt ſuch as theſe be put in order to gratify their vanity and at the ſame time ſpare their purſes; who, under the ſpecious pretence of becoming Mecænas's of the arts, ſet forth, in the moſt pompous manner, that their doors ſhould fly open at the approach of men of genius, that their buſts, ſtatues and pictures, ſhould be ſubſervient to the uſes and ſtudies of every one who was deſirous of improvement but was deſtitute of ſuch helps; it cannot be denied but ſuch a propoſal would have a very plauſible appearance; but how, if it ſhould afterwards be found, that all this parade of patronage ſhould be directed by mean ſelfiſh views, with an intent of bringing up a number of needy young perſons, who from the nature of their ſtudies ſhould be enabled to gratify their vanity in the embelliſhment of their houſes at under rates; ſurely ſuch a conduct would be truly deſpicable; but there is no accounting for what vanity and avarice might be tempted to do, and it is to be believed and hoped, that no ſuch practice will ever be countenanced in a country where the truly great pique themſelves upon their generoſity and honour.

There is a certain ſet of people who, to all outward appearance, are prodigious lovers and encouragers of the arts, the number of ingenious works of living artiſts to be found in their collections beſpeak them to be no leſs; but alas! it is quite the reverſe, theſe men inſtead of being encouragers are the greateſt enemies an artiſt can poſſibly encounter, they value themſelves upon the poſſeſſion of whatever is curious, but at the ſame time they value themſelves upon their art in making purchaſes at a low rate; at the very time they are extolling the merits of ſuch a picture, they cannot help exulting and informing you how little it coſt.

One

One of theſe, when he meets with any thing he is deſirous of poſſeſſing, will hang about the artiſt day after day, he will praiſe one part, and find fault with all the reſt, he will endeavour to prejudice him againſt his own performance, and when once he has lured him into ſuch a ſituation, makes a merit of taking it off his hands for little or nothing, at the ſame time perhaps adviſing him to do ſomething in this or that manner, in the execution of which, if he is ſucceſsful, he may probably have the ill-fortune to be cajoled out of it by his pretended friend, by the ſame method. But ſurely theſe men, at the very time they are thus meanly practiſing every little art to undervalue the performances of ingenious men, are defeating their own purpoſes, they are deſirous of becoming the poſſeſſors of works of art, and they purchaſe them to adorn their houſes, and at the ſame time to gratify their vanity, but ſurely no man of real taſte would like to have it ſaid that his cabinet was filled with trifling decorations of little value, that he indeed made a great ſhow, but that his whole collection coſt him a mere trifle, and was not worth any one's conſideration; this would ſting his vanity and mortify him ſufficiently, for the truth of the matter is, while theſe works of art are the property of the artiſts who brought them into being, they are worth but little, but when once they are transferred to one of theſe the caſe is widely different, they then become matchleſs, ineſtimable, and are conſidered in quite another light than they had hitherto been, becauſe their preſent poſſeſſor is a man of fortune. There is hardly a living artiſt to be found, who, if he was called upon, could not produce ſufficient vouchers in proof of what has been advanced; on the contrary, there are a very few, who, to their eternal honour, are the reverſe of theſe, and out of real love for the arts and artiſts, have formed collections of the works of living maſters at a great expence, and who may therefore be juſtly eſteemed patrons and encouragers of the polite arts.

One gentleman of rank, in particular, whoſe name cannot be mentioned with propriety, has appropriated a room in his houſe for the reception of Engliſh merit. Was this ſingularly noble example to be followed by the great, it is not to be doubted but the good effects that would be produced by ſuch encouragement would ſoon become viſible, and prove the means of putting a ſtop to the inundation of

foreign

foreign trumpery which is continually pouring in upon this wealthy iſland, and ſweeping off in its torrent the manure which ſhould be applied for the nurture and cultivation of the more ingenious part of its inhabitants. It is not here meant to inſinuate, that good pictures or good ſtatues, becauſe they are foreign, ought to be deſpiſed, on the contrary ſuch are a valuable acquiſition to this country as recommend themſelves either for the goodneſs of the deſign, or for the mechanical part of their execution, the value of which is perhaps beſt underſtood and admired by artiſts who have made thoſe parts their particular ſtudy; but pictures which have the ſanction of coming from abroad daily ſell at a prodigious rate, without any other character of recommendation than that of uncouth exoticks. Even the ancient Greeks and modern Romans produced very indifferent as well as very great artiſts, and in our times the works of the moſt deſpicable of theſe performers are purchaſed at exorbitant prices, only becauſe they were done by a man who has perhaps lain and mellowed a century or two in his grave.

It has been ſaid that the ſociety in the Strand, have made ſome feeble efforts towards the encouragement of the arts, and as ſome may poſſibly think this expreſſion was meant as a reflection upon that ſociety, it becomes neceſſary to explain its meaning. That the ſociety meant to encourage the polite arts, cannot admit of a doubt, but that the method they took to bring about ſo noble and deſirable an event was ill judged and badly conducted, will not perhaps be ſo candidly admitted. The great ſource of complaint among the artiſts of this kingdom has ever been the want of encouragement, not a deficiency of numbers. There have always been ingenious men, but there has not always been employments for them ſuitable to their genius and abilities. The great error of the ſociety therefore was this, they ſet out as if there really had been no artiſts at all exiſting in England, they (if the expreſſion may be allowed) beat the drum for recruits and immediately raiſed an army of raw unexperienced ſoldiers, who like thoſe raiſed from the ſerpents teeth ſown by Cadmus, were to cut one another to pieces, and if any ſurvived, the

plunder of the war (which was the premiums) being adjuſted, they were of courſe to be diſbanded and left to ſhift for themſelves. The ſociety inſtead of giving pecuniary rewards for the ſtudy of hiſtorical painting, ſhould have beſtowed honorary ones, and endeavoured by ſome method to have promoted the ſale of the productions of the preſent profeſſors, who by being thus encouraged would not have failed of bringing up a ſufficient number of pupils to ſucceed them, of whoſe abilities they would undoubtedly have been the beſt judges.

What muſt have been the conſequence if hiſtorical painting, (the promoting of which ſeems to have been the chief aim of the ſociety) had been cloſely purſued by theſe young artiſts? What churches, what publick buildings, what ſtair-caſes, are now painted, by which they might have procured employment? Pictures are baniſhed from the former, and the two latter are filled with ſtucco or covered with paper. It may be urged, that to purſue the ſtudy of hiſtorical compoſition is to become a maſter in every other branch of painting, as that alone comprehends all the reſt. But why ſhould we multiply artiſts? If there was not encouragement for a few before, will the ſtudy alone of hiſtorical compoſition prove the means of providing for ten times their number? By the method the ſociety took for the encouragement of the polite arts, it will appear that by the confluence of thoſe who might be ſeduced, by the expectation of pecuniary rewards from the ſociety, the polite arts inſtead of being benefited would be only rendered ſubſervient to the mechanical *, as thoſe who could not poſſibly ſubſiſt by the one to

* What melancholy conſequences would follow from ſuch a dependance, cannot perhaps be better illuſtrated than by the following fact, relating to the ingenious profeſſors of coach-painting. It ſeems that the tyranny of the coach-makers, over this body of artiſts is inſupportable. That fraternity, not content with a moderate profit upon a part they are unable to execute themſelves, make a common practice of doubling and ſometimes trebling the charge to their employers, and at the ſame time continue by all poſſible methods to reduce and undervalue the productions of theſe ingenious people; who, excluſive of their labour, furniſh oil, gold and colours, for the ſeveral purpoſes of coach-painting. Nay ſome of them have gone ſo far as to employ inferior artiſts in their own houſes, and demand the ſame exorbitant price for their work as they charged upon that of the ableſt performers. That it may not be ſaid all this

to fly for relief to the other †. In fact the ſociety in reſpect to its preſent plan, ſo far as it regards the polite arts, may be very juſtly compared to a green houſe, in which every plant thrives and flouriſhes, but upon being tranſplanted into the open air becomes inſtantly chilled, and is deſtroyed by the ſeverity of the climate. The Ladies of Great-Britain have alone done infinitely more for the profeſſors of miniature painting, than the ſociety have done for all the branches of painting together, becauſe, by wearing bracelets, they have at once promoted the art and rewarded the labour of the artiſt. This reflexion indeed naturally leads to another extremely diſpleaſing, which is that whenever the fluctuation of faſhion requires this ornamental part of dreſs ſhould be laid aſide, though ſome may ſtand their ground, many very ingenious perſons will be obliged to ſeek other means for ſubſiſtance.

The French, whom we copy in their vices and follies, and whoſe virtues we reject, have, as has been before obſerved, a

this is mere aſſertion, it is neceſſary to give one inſtance out of many, which is a fact that cannot be invalidated.—A perſon of diſtinction having given orders to his coach-maker to make him a carriage, at the ſame time directed him to employ a perſon whom he named, the Coach-maker obeyed this command, and the work being compleated, he ordered the painter to bring in his bill; which, upon being produced, amounted to twelve pounds. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the coach-maker's rage; he exclaimed bitterly againſt the exorbitancy of the charge, and gave the painter to underſtand, that he would not have dared to make ſuch a demand but upon the preſumption of his being a preferred man. But mark the end. The painter being acquainted in the nobleman's family, and rather curious to know what this moderate man would demand for his labour, obtained a ſight of the coachmaker's bill; who charged the nobleman, *thirty pounds* for painting and gilding. This was ſome ſatisfaction to the artiſt, however, as he thereby diſcovered the motives which had ſo greatly diſturbed the coach-maker, which amounted only to this, that he had got ſomething leſs *by the job* than he expected. Certainly the greateſt emolument ought to ariſe to that profeſſion where the greateſt abilities are required, if this was but rightly conſidered, it would be a great advantage to the public as well as to many ingenious perſons who are now depreſt, and whoſe works would be more elegant and better executed.

† So far had this paſſion for raiſing youth to the arts of deſign been carried, that it was propoſed at a meeting of the artiſts at the Foundling-Hoſpital, that they ſhould inſtruct the children at that place, and inſiſted upon it even after the gentleman who made the propoſal was informed, that there were numbers of ingenious men who actually at that time were deſtitute of employment.

laudable partiality for the works of their own artiſts, and Lewis the Fourteenth, by giving encouragement to the profeſſors, not only raiſed painting and ſculpture, but all the arts dependant thereon, nor did he wait until the youth of his country were trained up, but by employing the then preſent profeſſors, he gave encouragement to the young men, who might reaſonably expect to find the ſame or greater if they excelled, and who in the mean time received honorary inſtead of lucrative rewards. By this means he raiſed the arts to a height unknown in that nation before his reign, which has been maintained with very little difference to the preſent time.

Lewis the fourteenth's patronage of the arts, at the head of which he placed the celebrated Le Brun, was of the utmoſt importance to the French nation. It was next to an impoſſibility that the royal countenance, ſeconded by the abilities of ſo great a maſter, ſhould fail of bringing the polite arts into eſteem and reputation. And what was at firſt, perhaps conſidered as a matter of no moment, or at leaſt of no concern to the people, in the end was found to be of the utmoſt utility. The immenſe ſums that have ſince been drawn from all parts of Europe for the purchaſe of paintings, ſtatues, prints and other works of art, is a convincing proof that the encouragement of ingenious artiſts is of vaſt importance to a ſtate, as well as benefit to ſuch individuals as are endowed with powers to execute works ſo intereſting, pleaſing and profitable. As a proof, among innumerable others, of the encouragement given to painting in France, in every particular branch of the art, and of the advantage ariſing from ſuch encouragement to that nation, it need only be mentioned that the celebrated Vernet, (undoubtedly in his way one of the firſt painters in the world), is at this time, by order of the King, painting all the ſea-ports in France, for which he is paid three hundred pounds ſterling each picture; from theſe paintings are engraving a noble ſet of prints by Le Bas, which do honour to the French, and are eagerly bought up by our own and every other nation in Europe. It is evident from this one inſtance, that the cultivation of the arts is of prodigious advantage to a country,

ſince

ſince the profit accruing from works of this kind is very great, they are the produce of mere induſtry and application, not of expence, and a ſingle ſheet of paper, the manufacture alſo of France, is by this means encreaſed perhaps to the value of half a guinea or more, which, the expence of paper and printing excepted, is clear gain to the publick.

The appointment of the moſt ingenious artiſts to the ſuperintendancy of publick works carries more weight then the generality of mankind may be willing to allow *. Le Brun was not only the preſident of the Royal academy, but was alſo chief director of the King's manufactures at the Gobelines, and it will hardly be aſſerted that thoſe works were not carried into execution with more taſte and elegance from his appointment, than if an inferior perſon, with little or no knowledge in the arts of deſigning, had been employed to direct them. In Great-Britain, the deſigning and ſuperintendancy of works originally intended to be magnificent and elegant, is generally given to perſons utterly unacquainted with the meaning even of the words; how is it poſſible then that any work of that kind ſhould be produced among us? If a magnificent edifice is to be erected, a common builder, little if any thing ſuperior to a carpenter or bricklayer, in point of taſte or knowledge, is conſulted, inſtead of a regular architect; if an elegant garden or pleaſure ground is to be laid out, a gardener whoſe utmoſt knowledge is confined to the nature of the growth and culture of ſhrubs, plants and trees, is called in, inſtead of conſulting the landſcape painter, whoſe ſtudies

* How much more valuable a manufactory would Birmingham be (as well as many others) to this nation, if it was in the hands of people of taſte! at preſent, quantity not quality ſeems principally to be conſidered, and every thing is loaded with much confuſed and ſuperfluous work, which is falſly called ornament, when leſs labour, guided by judgment, would be much better, and every article be rendered more valuable by its elegant ſimplicity in ſhape and form, and the expence of that unneceſſary labour might be added to the quality of the materials, as the making things cheap and good is of infinite advantage to commerce, as cheap and bad are certainly the contrary. It is not therefore to be wondered at if the French ſhould ſupplant us in moſt manufactories, when it is ſo well known that they make elegance ſo much their ſtudy; and that taſte is ſo little regarded by us, the want of which cannot but lead us into many abſurdities.

relate

relate immediately to the ſubject, and who is therefore the perſon who ſhould be conſulted †. Nor is the decoration of the interior parts

† It is entirely owing to want of taſte among perſons of diſtinction, that the diſpoſition of their gardens is left to people utterly unfit for ſuch employments. A painter always conſiders every object as a picture, and accuſtoms himſelf to a critical examen of the parts of ſuch objects, by which means he acquires an habitual method of adopting what he finds beautiful and rejecting every thing that appears abſurd, inelegant or trifling. This practice of conſidering objects it is apprehended is very little attended to by any but painters, much leſs can it be expected from mere gardeners, whoſe ſtudies are chiefly directed to objects in which they are more immediately concerned. The management of the kitchen garden, raiſing of flowers, and the care of nurſeries, are things which generally demand all their attention, and which if they underſtand thoroughly is all that ought to be expected from them, but taſte ſeems to be an affair very foreign to their buſineſs, and conſequently not to be looked for among people of their profeſſion. Such a perſon can have no more idea of what is by painters called effect, than a painter can have of the whole buſineſs of a gardener. But as there are pretenders in moſt branches of buſineſs who affect to underſtand things quite foreign to their own, ſo there are gardeners who pretend to be architects, but then their works generally diſcover themſelves to be the productions of theſe ſons of earth. A good painter however will hardly ever fail, let the ſituation be ever ſo bad, to produce ſomething pictureſque, and the beſt diſpoſed pleaſure grounds, parks, &c. in this kingdom were deſigned by the late Mr. Kent, who was a painter, and was the firſt who ventured to attack and cut up the Dutch minced-pies of Bridgman, and others of the ſame ſublime taſte and genius.

It is impoſſible to lay down any particular rules for the diſpoſition of gardens, &c. as ſo much depends upon ſituation, however it may not be improper to point out from two well known examples, what appears in each of them to be either beauties or defects, and to which and upon what account the preference is due. Richmond and Kenſington gardens are both flat ſituations, the former is very much confined, and conſequently has very little variety, it has no command of the country, which is ſhut out on all ſides, except from the terrace, which gives a fine view of the Thames, Sion-Houſe, &c. and a very bad one of the backs of the miſerable houſes at Brentford, which ought to be hid, the extent of theſe gardens is very great, and yet it no where conveys an idea of ſpaciouſneſs, nor is there one opening from the garden to let in the leaſt object to entertain and divert the eye, and the whole is a tireſome round of ſameneſs and inſipidity.

Variety is the ſoul of deſign, but it is not the affected twiſting of ſerpentine walks that can alone produce it. The inequality of the ground is the great affair, but where nature has denied that advantage, ſpace judiciouſly introduced with variety may be ſubſtituted, and produce, if not a very ſtriking, yet an agreeable effect. Richmond Park is a happy ſpot in this reſpect, every ſtep produces a new ſcene, and greatly entertains and inſtead of fatiguing the eye; however this cannot be obtained in Richmond garden, and conſequently is not to be looked for.

parts of buildings better conſidered; the hiſtorical painter is ſtill leſs attended to than either of theſe, the grandeur of whoſe deſigns is certainly adapted to works of that kind. Inſtead of being required to give his aſſiſtance, his part is uſually ſupplied by a paper hanging maker and two or three workers in ſtucco.

From what has been already ſaid it will appear, that the polite arts are very far from being in that flouriſhing ſtate with us, which might naturally be expected in a country abounding in riches, and in which no expence is ſpared in whatever is intended by perſons of diſtinction, either to ſuit their convenience or gratify their vanity. It might be imagined, that theſe motives alone would be ſufficient to have raiſed the arts, becauſe the arts, in every country but our own, are conſidered as the means of gratifying every

Kenſington Garden, as was before obſerved, is not better ſituated than that of Richmond, nor can boaſt any thing like the terrace, it is alſo much confined as to diſtant views, but its interior parts are much better laid out, and have a more airy appearance, there is a variety of ſpacious openings, and the whole together conveys no idea of confinement, which is the great fault of Richmond Garden. This appearance of confinement in the country, is certainly wrong, where every thing ſhould conduce to give an air of chearfulneſs and liberty. Upon the whole therefore, this garden, in point of deſign and diſpoſition, is preferable to that of Richmond, and excepting the noble terrace, is in every reſpect vaſtly ſuperior.

If therefore the hand of art were ſuffered to guide the progreſſive improvements of uncultivated ſituations, we ſhould ſoon ſee the good effects of it in the multiplied inſtances of acquired beauties in every nobleman's garden. Ingenuity will ſupply every deficiency of nature, will extend the proſpect, or encreaſe the plantations, will erect a temple, or variegate the parterre, will introduce a caſcade, or conceal any thing diſpleaſing. The moſt elegant villa will appear to the greateſt advantage, when the environs, whether park, garden, or pleaſure-ground, are laid out with genius; I mean where the aſſiſtances of art viſibly reduce the wild luxuriancies of uncultivated barbarity to pleaſing and agreeable forms; where you are equally ſurpriſed at the ſkill of the artiſt and the aſtoniſhing contraſt of its original appearance. For a ſituation thus improved, is as much the true image of nature in perfection, as the Venus of Medicis is an exact repreſentation of the various graces that conſtitute the figure of perfect beauty, and a ſkilful artiſt would no more deviate from this principle, than he would prefer the moſt low, abſurd or naſty ſubject that e'er diſgraced a Dutchman's pencil, to the ſublime choice of the divine Raphael.

deſire

deſire of this nature; unfortunately, however, painting is diſcouraged in every branch, except that of portraits; ſculpture, from a want of knowledge in thoſe who ſhould encourage it, ſeems to be in a very declining way, and architecture, inſtead of gaining ground, ſeems to be retreating backwards ſo very faſt, that, in a few years it may be expected, when a nobleman wants a deſign for a palace, one may be offered him according to the primitive, ſimple and truly antique taſte, compoſed of nothing but ſticks and dirt. In ſupport of ſuch a ſuppoſition, let the preſent taſte of architecture be conſidered impartially, and it will be found that nothing is left for invention, nothing for improvement; the models of Greece and Rome are the ſtandard of Engliſh architecture, unalterably fixed as ſuch, and the inhabitants of this climate muſt be contented to peep out of ſuch holes as were contrived by thoſe people to ſcreen them from the influence of the ſun, which in ours is ſcarcely ſeen half the year. However this method, and the ornaments dependant thereupon, are *ſimple*, *chaſte* and in *the true ſtile*, and it would be conſidered by a perſon of *virtu*, as little leſs than blaſphemy, to propoſe the leaſt innovation, though convenience and propriety are ſacrificed. It is true, the preſent age has refined a little upon the matter; ſome antiquities in Greece, of which the more diſtant ages were ignorant, or, which is full as probable, did not think worth their notice, have been ranſacked and adopted as the moſt perfect models of taſte in modern architecture.

The powers of inventive genius are, at this time ſo very little attended to, and the examples of Greece and Rome ſo firmly eſtabliſhed, that nothing more is required to model a youth of moderate parts into a complete architect, than to put him apprentice either to a bricklayer, maſon, or carpenter, under whoſe tuition he will acquire the great art of ſcoring ſtrait lines, and ſetting off their proportion by ſcale and compaſs. His ſervitude being ended, thus accompliſhed and furniſhed with the Rudiments of Architecture, he may be ſent to Rome, and after he has ſpent the uſual time allotted for traverſing that city, he may cauſe it to be inſerted in the

London papers, that Mr. Trowel, the celebrated architect, on account of his vaſt abilities, has had prodigious honours conferred upon him, and that he ſhortly intends to re-viſit his native country, to which he will no doubt do incredible honour. The trumpet having been thus properly ſounded, and the architect furniſhed in a ſuitable manner with a collection of drawings of the beſt Italian maſters in that ſcience, he may venture to make his appearance in London. His next buſineſs is to decorate his houſe with this borrowed plumage, and then get ſome friend to beat the drum, and ſtun the publick with encomiums upon this prodigy of art. This naturally will induce ſome perſon of diſtinction to take a peep at this phenomenon, and if he is poſſeſſed of the leaſt ſpark of *virtú*, he will become almoſt petrified with amazement, and, in the ardour of aſtoniſhment, enquire where this great creature has been hitherto buried? The anſwer is obvious, Mr. Trowel is juſt arrived from Rome! You ſee every thing is perfectly Italian, his drawings, his air, his cloaths, his ſervants, all Italian—Braviſſimo! he muſt undoubtedly be a great genius, Mr. Trowel's name is up, and he may go to bed when he pleaſes.

But, to be ſerious, where is the neceſſity of this parade of going to Rome, is there a building, or even a fragment of a building in Greece or Italy, of which we have not accurate draughts and meaſures? and is it not from theſe reſources that every modern building is compiled without variation, and without the leaſt attempt at novelty or invention †? It is very much to be queſtioned, if ſuch an

† It is not hereby meant to decry or explode the eſtabliſhed orders of Grecian and Roman architecture, and introduce whim, caprice and gothicism in their ſtead, it is only intended to inforce this known truth, that it certainly requires taſte and genius in the combination of the different orders to produce grandeur and elegance, and that with reſpect to the ornamental parts of architecture they ſhould be left entirely to the judgment of the deſigner, who ought always to conſider the nature of the building, and the purpoſe for which it is intended, without perpetually ſearching for antique ornaments, which might with great propriety be adapted to the buildings from which they are borrowed, but are terribly miſapplied by ſome modern architects. How abſurd and ridiculous would it appear, if one of theſe was to adorn a church with the heads of oxen, pateras and axes, ſuitable decorations in a heathen temple, but in a chriſtian country, only to be employed with propriety in a butcher's ſhop or ſlaughter houſe.

attempt was to be made, whether a thorough bred connoiſſeur would vouchſafe to beſtow a ſecond look upon ſuch a deſign?

But this being the caſe, what becomes of genius and invention, is the farce of an architect's having been at Rome to ſupply the want of theſe, and to exclude every attempt of introducing novelty and elegance, becauſe it is not of foreign extraction? It ſhould ſeem that people of diſtinction in England are come to a determination to admire nothing but copies either in painting or architecture, and therefore load the kingdom with the one, and their cabinets with the other. In this view of the ſtate of architecture, it may not be improper to ſuppoſe a perſon of diſtinction, who, with every other requiſite for forming a great character, ſhould alſo be poſſeſſed of a thorough knowledge in building, and that this perſon ſhould, in conformity to his own ideas of novelty and elegance, require a deſign for a ſuperb edifice out of the common method of practice; it is likewiſe to be ſuppoſed that he ſhould be recommended for this purpoſe to two architects both eminent in their profeſſion, but, with this difference, that one had been in Italy, and the other had not. The queſtion is, from which of theſe it is to be preſumed he would be moſt likely to obtain what he wanted; that is, a deſign in which grandeur, elegance and variety ſhould unite to produce a whole which ſhould be new, harmonious and regular? It may with the greateſt reaſon be preſumed, that he whoſe ideas had been leaſt confined and ſhackled with the prejudices of a foreign taſte would be the perſon preferred, for the inſurmountable paſſion for Greek and Roman examples, would prevent the one from ſtriking out any thing which was not ſtrictly conformable to them, and conſequently he could produce nothing which had not been ſeen before; the other, blinded by no ſuch prejudices, would give his imagination free ſcope, and by a bold attempt to ſoar upon his own wings, produce ſomething which if it did not perhaps quite reach the idea of his employer, would at leaſt ſatisfy him much better, and theſe trials by being often repeated, muſt unavoidably produce things new, great, noble and ſingular.

If

If Shakeſpeare had been fettered by the rules of the ancients, his plays would have been more correct, but they would have been proportionably inſipid, and the poetical wanderings of that great Author abundantly recompence the want of attention to the rules of the ancient dramatick writers.

The qualifications of a perfect architect are very extenſive, according to Vitruvius; and certainly there is a great deal more required than the bare knowledge and capacity of a mere mechanick, to make an able artiſt. William of Wickham, Inigo Jones, Sir Chriſtopher Wren, Sir James Thornhill, Sir John Vanbrugh, Lord Burlington, it is well known, were all men of a liberal education, well verſed in the elements of ſcience, and therefore knew ſomething more than ſcoring of ſtrait lines; they had, if I may ſo expreſs it, the ſeeds of invention in them, and were not mere compilers from books, like many of the preſent age, who are no more than mere mechanical architects, totally ignorant of every branch of learning proper to lead them into the knowledge of deſign. Almoſt every one now, who can but make ſhift to draw neat lines, and is furniſhed with a few books to borrow from, ſets up for an architect, his productions are dignified with the term invention, and, with many, paſs current for ſuch, though when examined by the judicious and diſcerning, they are found to be nothing elſe than ſervile imitations of what had been done before.

Nothing can ſet the preſent ſtate of architecture in a better light and more explain the eſtimation in which it is held by people of faſhion, than a tranſaction which actually fell within the obſervation of the Author, who having ſome buſineſs to tranſact for a gentleman of fortune, was by him directed to call at a particular part of the town and *conſult with his architect*, about an affair of ſome conſequence in a building which the gentleman was at that time erecting. The Author according to the direction given him waited upon the architect, but it is eaſier to gueſs than deſcribe his aſtoniſhment, when upon his approaching the houſe of this artiſt, he diſcovered that he not only built houſes for the living, but was alſo employed in the conſtruction of thoſe in which the dead are uſually depoſited; in ſhort, he was a coffin-maker. And

indeed when it is conſidered in what a ſlight wretched manner the greateſt part of the new buildings are erected, it may be very juſtly ſurmiſed, that there are not an inconſiderable number of coffin-makers who follow this profeſſion, perhaps with a view to their original buſineſs, hoping they may not only bury people in the ruins of their own houſes, but alſo decently inter thoſe whom they have ſo ingeniouſly contrived to releaſe from the troubles and difficulties of this tranſitory life. The foregoing inſtance ſerves admirably well to ſhew the eſtimation in which architecture is at preſent held, but to deſign a building is one thing, and merely to put that deſign in execution, another; however, to ſave a trifling expence, he that can only (and that too with difficulty) execute under the direction of an artiſt, is generally preferred to do that, of which he has no comprehenſion, and conſequently can never underſtand, and which will of courſe be executed accordingly.

If what has been before aſſerted, in theſe reflexions on the ſtate of the arts, is allowed to be true, that cuſtom or habit, or in other words, the effects of different ſyſtems of education, produce what is called a ſuperiority of genius in one nation more than in another, and if what has been alſo aſſerted is allowed that in the mode of education purſued in Great-Britain, men of genius have been produced equal at leaſt, if not ſuperior to thoſe of other countries, it follows in order to prove the equality of our genius in every reſpect, and to give free ſcope to young minds, that the preſent ſyſtem of education ſhould be altered, not contracted but enlarged. In purſuit of the attainments of learning and ſcience no innovations ſhould be made. That genius of every kind ſhould have free liberty of exerting its powers is what every one who wiſhes well to his country muſt certainly deſire. Why then it may be aſked, are the polite arts neglected, or rather baniſhed from our univerſities? Is the ſtudy of a knowledge, which creates admiration in every gentleman who poſſeſſes it, beneath the dignity of thoſe great ſeminaries of learning? Is not every nobleman or perſon of fortune who has acquired a competent degree of taſte in the polite arts, eſteemed and venerated in a particular degree, becauſe he has rendered himſelf maſter of ſo delightful and ornamental a

part

part of uſeful knowledge? It cannot be doubted that if a foundation was eſtabliſhed in each of the univerſities, for the ſtudy of the polite arts, to be conducted in the ſame manner with thoſe already founded for the attainments of the greater branches of knowledge, we ſhould in a very ſhort time perceive the prodigious advantages which would ariſe from ſuch an eſtabliſhment. Our young Nobility, by being ſcientifically taught the theory of the arts, of which they are in time to become the patrons and protectors, would be thereby enabled to judge for themſelves inſtead of being obliged to truſt to the judgment of others. It is not very common for perſons of exalted rank to become authors, or to publiſh ſyſtems, nor is it expected they ſhould; their ſtation in life and the important concerns of their country, uſually demand the greateſt part of their attention; but the taſte and knowledge they have acquired by a ſuperior education always enables them to judge of the works of others, who are either impelled by their genius, or urged by their circumſtances, to inſtruct or entertain mankind. In proportion as the knowledge of the polite arts gains ground among perſons of rank, in the ſame proportion will the execution of them riſe among the ſubordinate part of the people. No one would dare to offer a work unworthy the attention of his patron, nor would a man of true taſte and ſcientifick knowledge deign to beſtow a thought upon what was beneath his notice. This therefore would truly excite emulation, and in the ſame degree that taſte and judgment was found among the great, in the ſame degree would excellence be produced among the artiſts. If a gentleman who had a liberal education and is naturally endowed with a good underſtanding, is ſuppoſed to be a judge of a fine poem or other piece of writing, and to taſte the beauties or diſcover the defects in ſuch performances, why ſhould he not, if his education had been properly directed, be equally qualified to judge with propriety of works of art? And yet for want of this very habit of conſidering them in the early part of life it is not unuſual for ſuch perſons to be extremely deficient in this particular, and though they can taſte and feel the beautiful deſcriptions and painting in a great poet, yet ſhew this very perſon an hiſtorical picture of Raphael or Pouſſin, or a landſcape of Claude Lorrain, and he is loſt, his good ſenſe tells him there

is

is a ſomething which he approves, but for want of a little ſcience, he diſtruſts his own judgment, and in the perturbation of his diſtreſs, flies for relief and advice to a picture dealer, who has not, nor ever can have a tithe of his underſtanding.

The great advantages which muſt neceſſarily ariſe from this valuable addition to the preſent mode of education, cannot perhaps be better elucidated than in the inſtance of ſending young perſons of diſtinction to travel. It has hitherto been cuſtomary to finiſh their ſtudies in this manner, and certainly the propriety of ſo doing is not to be called in queſtion provided the perſon who is thus ſent to viſit foreign countries is naturally endowed with good ſenſe, heightened and improved by a proper education. Such, and ſuch only, are the perſons who ought to be truſted abroad. There is no occaſion to convince the world by ocular demonſtration that Great-Britain like other nations, produces weak men as well as men of ſenſe, foreigners will always be ready to give us credit for ſuch commodities, though undoubtedly there are thoſe among them who had much rather ſee a ſmall cargo of the former landed in their ports, than a whole fleet of the latter; for in this inſtance there is a ſimilarity between us and the reſt of the world, neither the one or the other are without a ſhoal of ſharks, who are perpetually upon the watch, and voraciouſly prey upon every fool who has the misfortune to fall in their way. But the greateſt unhappineſs is that men of ſenſe who travel are liable ſometimes to the ſame miſadventures, merely for want of the propoſed enlargement of their education. There is for inſtance, at Rome, (which is the Monmouth Street of the arts,) a ſet of fellows whoſe profeſſion is what we in England call picture dealing. This buſineſs moſt people know much reſembles that of dealing in old cloaths, their commodities are always ſecond hand and tarniſhed, but by fine-drawing and other helps, every defect is concealed as much as poſſible, in order to deceive the ignorant and unwary, and ſet off the goods to the beſt advantage. One of theſe leaches having faſtened upon a young traveller (poſſibly a man of fine ſenſe, but who makes the grand tour before he has ſeen his own country) is not to be ſhaken off, he officiouſly becomes his ſhadow, and teaches him to admire

alike

alike things which are deſpicable as well as thoſe which are worthy of admiration. Indeed in this inſtance it may be ſaid, he ſhews ſome degree of honeſty, for his ignorance is commonly ſo great that he really knows no diſtinction between the good and bad himſelf. However, as this is the only guide our traveller has, he is, for want of ſcientifick knowledge to enable him to judge for himſelf, obliged to ſee with the other's eyes; and after having been for two or three years extremely attentive to the monotony of the connoiſſeur who has parroted to him a jargon of unmeaning ſtuff, he at length arrives in his own country with a depraved taſte and a thick cloud of Italian prejudice diffuſed over his underſtanding, which naturally produces a hearty contempt for the productions of his own country; he accordingly, with all the advantages of good ſenſe, what is eſteemed a good education, and the additional acquiſition of having ſeen foreign climates, ſets up for a connoiſſeur and a collector, and credit is given him for all theſe requiſites, his taſte is allowed and confirmed by every body, but no one is ſo forward to flatter him in this particular as the Engl ſh Proteus of a picture dealer, who is by turns, as beſt ſuits his intereſt, a Fleming, a Frenchman or an Italian, he is loud in his encomiums on the taſte of this prodigy of *virtú:* In plain Engliſh, he flatters his vanity that he may the more eaſily pick his pocket, by impoſing upon him the refuſe of a foreign collection, or a ſmoked copy manufactured in his own garret at ſtarving wages, for the work of ſome great maſter.

The arts in England have hitherto been depreſſed by picture dealers, who in the moſt unfair manner never fail to oppoſe to riſing merit the works of ſome dead maſter. An inſtance of this kind happened about fifteen years ago when a very great perſonage, who died ſoon after, being ſhewn a fine landſcape, the work of an artiſt now living, was extremely pleaſed with the performance and expreſſed ſome deſire of purchaſing it, but unfortunately happening to aſk one of theſe dealers his opinion of the picture, he had the wiſdom and goodneſs to ſay, "That it was very well, but "it was not like Gaſpar." This had the defired effect, the ardor of becoming the poſſeſſor of it, which was excited by the merit and excellence of the piece, was cooled becauſe it was not like Gaſpar, the pic-

ture though an excellent imitation of nature which, Gaſpar hardly ever conſidered, was accordingly condemned to the hammer and diſpoſed of by auction at a much leſs price than it ought to have been. Thus when a young genius makes his appearance and ſeems to threaten the foundation of the venerable pile of antiquity, one of the perſons whoſe buſineſs it is to keep it in repair, rolls a great fragment of a ruined column, commonly called a dead maſter over him, and inſtantly cruſhes the poor wretch to pieces. This whole ſcene of impoſition, ſo eaſily and ſo frequently put in practice, would certainly be prevented was the ſtudy of the polite arts made a part of the exerciſes of an univerſity education; a man of ſenſe trained up in this manner could never become the dupe either of an Engliſh or foreign bubble-monger, and we ſhould not only eſtabliſh our credit as people of taſte abroad, but alſo ſave a prodigious ſum of money from being ſquandered away in the purchaſe of many things which every Italian of true taſte is heartily glad to ſee removed out of his native country, leſt they ſhould one day be diſcovered to be a diſgrace to it.

But there remains yet another motive which will perhaps be allowed to have its weight in favour of ſcientific, and even practical knowledge in the arts of deſign. It has happened, and may and undoubtedly will again happen, that ſome perſon of rank or fortune may determine to travel not only merely to ſee foreign climes, but to deſcribe whatever he finds worthy his notice whether ancient or modern, and if in ſo doing he ſhould beſides the neceſſary requiſites, which form a good writer, be alſo poſſeſſed of taſte and the power of delineating ſuch objects as ſtrike his fancy with pleaſure, or which ſtimulate the deſire of introducing ſome uſeful invention (to which we are yet ſtrangers.) What a treaſure will the works of ſuch a man, thus accompliſhed, become to the learned world, what an honour to himſelf and to his country!

The arts being in themſelves ſcientific, it is imagined they might eaſily and with great propriety be introduced into our univerſities, and connected with the more ſcientific ſtudies, for painting is in fact an univerſal language. It has with great injuſtice however been urged that the ſtudy of deſign is neceſſary only to a few particular

ticular profeſſions, and that it is beneath the attention of a gentleman; but from what has been already ſaid on that ſubject and the concurrent ſentiments of ſome of the ableſt men this kingdom has produced, it is preſumed that this is a vulgar error, and that ſuch a ſuppoſition muſt have ariſen from the low eſtimation in which the arts have hitherto been held among us; certain it is, if a foundation in each of the Univerſities could be once obtained, in which the theory and practice of deſign, civil, military and naval architecture, geography, ſurveying, &c. and the mechanick arts, ſhould be taught and properly explained by real models, there would be no neceſſity for ſending young gentlemen of fortune to foreign univerſities in order to attain theſe neceſſary qualifications to compleat their ſtudies.

The encouragement which has been given to learning in theſe kingdoms is prodigious, the revenues of the two univerſities are immenſe, and the number of ſtudents who have received their education in theſe two great ſeminaries innumerable, and yet perhaps a catalogue of perſons of real eminence who have made any kind of figure in the world, will be found to be very inconſiderable in proportion to the number of thoſe who have made none at all. Certainly the education of youth ought to be one of the firſt cares of the ſtate, as the very genius of government depends upon it, and often the riſe and fall of kingdoms. If it is conſidered in this light it demands the utmoſt attention and regard; all poſſible means ſhould be uſed to enlarge and extend it for the benefit of mankind, and perhaps a more proper ſtep towards attaining this deſirable end could not be taken, than by making the ſtudies of the polite arts a part of a liberal education. It is not a little to the credit of our Univerſities, that ſome of the Kings of England have received their educations in them, and if a due attention was paid to the dignity of theſe great ſeminaries, by making the ſtudies more univerſal, it is not impoſſible but they might again be honoured with the preſence of Royal Students, which would undoubtedly prove both honourable and beneficial, as ſuch an acquiſition muſt of courſe draw a great number of perſons from all parts of Europe, who would be ambitious of receiving their ducation in ſuch company; nor would the

advantages ariſing from ſuch conduct be confined to the univerſities alone, as the whole kingdom would be benefited by it.

In Scotland there ſeems to have been an enthuſiaſm with regard to learning. They have no leſs than four univerſities, all of them conſiderable, and conſequently the great number of perſons of the lower claſs, who receive education from them, tends to the impoveriſhing of the country; there cannot ſurely be a greater miſtake committed than that of endeavouring to ſpread univerſal knowledge in a kingdom where every effort of induſtry is required to make it reſpectable. It cannot be ſuppoſed that a man who has been brought up to the ſtudy of polite literature, will ever turn his thoughts towards the improvement of manufactures, or lend his hand to the plough. It is owing to this learned phrenzy, and to this only, that the natives of Scotland are diſperſed over the face of the whole globe, their native country has furniſhed them with learning, and conſequently with a contempt for labour; their ideas are enlarged, and their hopes in conſequence of that enlargement, are not to be gratified in the place of their birth, they are therefore conſtrained to ſeek preferment in countries where learning is not ſo common, or where indolence gives them an opportunity of making advantage of their ſuperior qualifications. But how grievouſly does this at the ſame time hurt the country! Would it not be infinitely more to their advantage to have fewer men of learning and more induſtrious individuals? Would it not be much better if the cultivation of the polite arts and of induſtrious ingenuity was attended to, and the people kept together? The introduction of the ſtudy of the polite arts among the more ſevere ſtudies of literature, muſt by the very practice of the arts when acquired, prove the means of employing innumerable hands in profeſſions where the other branches of learning would naturally fall in with them, and by their mutual aſſiſtance concur to render thoſe who adopted ſuch a plan a moſt reſpectable and flouriſhing people. If this was to be timely attended to, in a few years Scotland would wear quite another appearance, and if the good ſenſe of that people was rightly directed and encouraged, they would no longer be ſtigmatized for their poverty, nor upbraided for deſerting their country.

If

If the kingdom of Scotland is over-run with learned men, and almoſt deſtitute of laborious people, the principality of Wales is in ſome reſpects in a much worſe ſituation. The Welch are an induſtrious people, but they are more than proportionably ignorant, there is no ſuch thing as an univerſity in the country, and if the common people in Scotland have too much learning, the men of property in Wales have in general no learning at all; in ſhort, ignorance is the characteriſtic of the Welch, as learning is that of the Scotch, and if theſe will not on that account ſtoop to laborious or ingenious employments for the benefit of their country, thoſe of the ſuperior ſort among the Welch have not abilities to direct the laborious induſtrious part in ſuch purſuits as would infallibly contribute to their mutual advantage.

As it will appear from the general intent of theſe reflexions, that an union of learning and the polite arts is ſincerely to be wiſhed by every one who has the leaſt affection for his country, ſo it is to be deplored that no ſtep has yet been taken to promote ſuch an union. The noble foundations already eſtabliſhed for the cultivation of learning, it is apprehended, are fully ſufficient for that purpoſe, and therefore it is greatly to be lamented that the late Sir Jacob Gerard Downing, inſtead of appropriating his vaſt fortune to the purpoſes of endowing a needleſs foundation, had not turned his thoughts towards the real improvement of his country, by eſtabliſhing one for the ſtudy of the polite arts, an eſtabliſhment which would have immortalized his name, and have proved of the utmoſt benefit and conſequence to this kingdom, in this and future ages.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE the FIRST contains HYDE-PARK, with the CITY and LIBERTIES of WESTMINSTER.

UPON the ſuppoſition of building a royal palace, it is propoſed in this plate that Kenſington-Garden and Hyde-Park ſhould be laid together, and the preſent houſe and buildings entirely taken away. The ground within the circle deſcribed in the plan, in the center of the park, to be raiſed with an eaſy aſcent, to the height of twenty feet, upon which the palace ſhould be erected. The raiſing of the ground would produce this advantage, the whole heighth of the building would be ſeen at a great diſtance, and this elevation would give it a moſt elegant appearance and at the ſame time command a beautiful and extenſive view of the city and country from the lower apartments, the vaſt area in which this palace is propoſed to be built would undoubtedly render it healthy, and at the ſame time preſerve the beauty of the materials, as from its detached ſituation it would not be affected by the ſmoke of the town, which is an utter enemy to ſtone, always changing its colour and ſpoiling the exterior decorations, as is evidently ſeen in St. Paul's and other ſtone buildings in this metropolis. For the ſame reaſon that it is propoſed to elevate the ground on which the palace ſhould be erected, it is objected againſt having high brick walls round the Park to intercept the view, for which either iron rails or a Ha-ha ſhould be ſubſtituted; and if the buildings at Kenſington and thoſe on the oppoſite ſide next to Groſvenor-Square are regularly formed upon the lines deſcribed in the plan, a finer ſituation for perſons of diſtinction can hardly be conceived, nor would ſuch buildings as might be erected in

thoſe places fail of producing a ſtriking effect from the palace itſelf, (were their fronts compoſed of ſtone or ſtucco) and the whole together would make the fineſt ſcene in the univerſe. The ſides of the Park are formed by right lines, one from Hyde-Park-Corner, which might be continued and form a ſtrait road to Brentford; on the oppoſite ſide the line falls directly in with Oxford-Road; by taking off part of the Park, at the ſouth-eaſt corner, it will give an opportunity of making a direct line from the New-Road on the one hand quite down to the Thames, and on the other, from the corner of the Park at Oxford-Road, to Hampſtead-Church; this line from the New-Road down to the Thames is propoſed as the great boundary, beyond which no buildings ſhould be permitted to be erected on any pretence whatever. The line within the propoſed plan, formed with long dots, deſcribes the plan of Hyde-Park and Kenſington-Garden, by which it appears that in order to render the propoſed plan as regular as poſſible, the road to Kenſington has been taken in, and conſequently all Knightſbridge, Kenſington-Gore and the greateſt part of Kenſington, which on account of the expence attending the purchaſe of ſo large a tract, may be accounted an inſuperable objection to its ever being put in execution, but it was laid down in that manner to ſhew what ought to be done, rather than what is expected to be done; for that part of the plan which falls within the park-wall would have a noble effect, and perhaps nearly anſwer the ſame purpoſes as if the whole was executed, as the center of the deſign, by being ſet a little farther back, would allow for the original intention of preſerving a free uninterrupted ride or road quite round the park, not to mention that the park might, with much leſs difficulty, be extended backward in a line parallel to the weſtern road.

2. If a range of ſquares had been formed, each of the ſame ſize with Groſvenor-Square, with ſtreets correſponding from the new road to Piccadilly one way, and others at right angles with them, inſtead of that heap of abſurdity and confuſion, deſcribed by the dotted lines in that part of the plan, it would certainly have been more profitable, as well as more elegant and convenient.

3. As

3. As the New Road is propoſed to be the great boundary for reſtraining the ruinous practice of building, on the north ſide of the town, ſo it is to be wiſhed, that no building might be erected nearer than one hundred and twenty feet from the outermoſt line of it, and that this ſpace ſhould be divided by poſts and chains, allowing fifty-two feet for the Road, eight feet for a common foot-path, next the fields, and the remaining ſixty feet next the houſes, to be made equal in heighth to the common path, and laid out with graſs-plots, with a convenient ſpace to be gravelled for a foot-path next the front of the houſes *. This method might be obſerved entirely round the whole city, to be compoſed of regular fronts only, and the line might be finely broken and varied by elevated objects at proper diſtances; and would be profitable to the owners of ſuch buildings, as well as pleaſant to the inhabitants of London, who might, in that caſe, boaſt the moſt beautiful environ in Europe. It is to be wiſhed the New-Road had been made quite ſtrait, which might have been very eaſily done, as nothing could poſſibly have been loſt by it, at preſent the diſpoſition is extremely aukward. At Battle-Bridge, it deviates on account of the old road, but in its direction from the Yorkſhire-Stingo to Padington it is made wretchedly inconvenient; it ought certainly to have been continued in a direct line croſſing the Edgeware-Road to Weſtborn-Green, as laid down in the plan.

4. Nothing can be more abſurd or ridiculous than the diſpoſition of Queen Anne's-Street, which runs parallel with Mortimer-Street, Cavendiſh-Square, the undertakers of which muſt certainly have loſt their ſenſes when they contrived an avenue ſo broken and diſjointed, Lord Foley's garden-wall entirely ſtops the communication between the two ends of it, and by that means renders both parts melancholly, inelegant and inconvenient to the greateſt degree. This was a notorious blunder, which no excuſe can palliate, *for it is utterly impoſſible to ſuppoſe theſe ſtreets were built before the garden-wall was raiſed*, if that had been the caſe, no private gentleman, much leſs a nobleman, (notwithſtanding the ground was his own property,) would have done ſo ungenerous and ungenteel

* This diſtance from the road would greatly prevent the houſes from being annoyed with duſt.

a thing, as to build a garden-wall directly through the center of ſo fine a ſtreet merely for the ſake of extending a London garden, a thing in itſelf rather unneceſſary, as the houſe commands an uninterrupted view to Hampſtead and Highgate, and undoubtedly had the ſtreet been then built, the line of it would have been kept, and have given opening enough for an elegant terrace, but no ſuch ſtreet exiſting at that time, his Lordſhip was undoubtedly juſtifiable in extending his garden to what length he pleaſed, upon his own property, on this conſideration, that as he had no neighbours he could not poſſibly prejudice or annoy them; neither his Lordſhip nor any one elſe could ever imagine that any ſet of men would take it in their heads to throw away their money in building two ſtreets (for ſo in fact they are) and call them one, which ſhould each terminate againſt a brick-wall, and indeed this ſeems to be that Nobleman's opinion, in a plan publiſhed under his own direction of a deſign for a new ſquare, in which he very judiciouſly diſtinguiſhes them by the names of Great Queen Anne's-Street, and Little Queen Anne's-Street. This whole plan is marked in its proper place by dotted lines, and at the firſt view ſhews that Nobleman's intention could never be to obſtruct any ſtreet or opening whatever, as in order to keep the views of Hampſtead and Highgate he has ſacrificed ſo much valuable ground, and indeed has given ſuch a plan, as, were it not for that very conſideration, muſt appear to be a very injudicious, inelegant and trifling performance. This noble ſolicitude therefore for the preſervation of an uninterrupted view and freedom of communication ſo much to be admired, has alone been the true reaſon why ſo many very inconvenient accute angles are ſeen in that diſpoſition, by which it appears that the houſes (if it was poſſible to build any upon thoſe angles) muſt be extremely inconvenient and ungraceful, and evidently ſhews that his Lordſhip, *waving all deſign of profit, directed his attention only to the accommodation of the publick, with a ſpirit truly laudable and commendable*; however, for the ſake of variety and the conſideration of the great value of the ground in that part of the town, another deſign is with the greateſt humility ſubſtituted in its place.

5. Near

5. Near the Tabernacle in Tottenham-Court Road, a circular area, by way of variety is propoſed, of ſeven hundred feet in diameter, the curvature of which in a houſe of thirty feet in front, is no more than three inches and three quarters, whereas the Circus at Bath is only three hundred eighteen feet in diameter, which produces a curvature of eight inches and an half in a front of thirty feet. It is a little ſurprizing that among the great number of ſquares in London, not one is to be found that is regularly built, on the contrary it is hardly poſſible to conceive any thing more confuſed and irregular than the generality of them are *, with a view therefore to this great defect, the circular plan now offered was deſigned, and although eight ſtreets are given, yet, as ſo many avenues produce a multiplicity of angles, it would be better to have no more than four openings. In the center of each quarter, a grand principal building ſhould be erected, the front of which ſhould be made to project moderately and be regularly deſigned in harmony with the reſt of the buildings. In the midſt of the area a large baſon with a fountain or ſome other object ſhould be made, ſuitable to the magnificence of the whole; this baſon might be ſurrounded with verdure encompaſſed with a gravel walk, the whole incloſed with iron rails, and no innovation whatever in the deſign of the buildings ſhould be ſuffered to be made, in order to preſerve the grandeur of the whole. It cannot be denied that a work of this kind would have a noble effect, and become one of the principal ornaments of this city. Nor is this deſign at all improbable, there is no doubt but more buildings will be erected, and if this idea was executed, it muſt neceſſarily prove advantageous to the undertakers; the novelty of the deſign, the elegance and ſpaciouſneſs of the area itſelf, and above all, its magnificent appearance, would combine to render it the moſt deſirable ſituation for perſons of rank and diſtinction, that can poſſibly be imagined.

6. On the other ſide of Tottenham-Court Road an opening of an Octagon form is laid down, and if the ſquare between that and

* The clumſy brick piers in Groſvenor-Square, which are incumbrances, ſhould be removed, and the whole new modelled in the manner hereafter mentioned in the deſign of a circular area.

the Britiſh-Muſeum ſhould be thought too near it, this laſt might be eaſily thrown into ſtreets.

7. As it may be readily ſuppoſed that all the ground between the town and the New-Road will be built upon, it may not be improper to diſpoſe of that contiguous to the Foundling-Hoſpital in the manner deſcribed in the plan.

8. Grays-Inn-Lane might be improved, by the method laid down in the plan.

9. Great Ormond-Street is continued to Southampton-Row one way, and to Grays-Inn-Lane the other.

10. Theobald's-Row is continued into King-Street, and the King's-Way widened. The wall of Grays-Inn-Gardens ſhould be taken down, and iron rails ſubſtituted.

11. Bedford-Row is opened into Holborn, and the line continued to Lincoln's-Inn Gardens, to be terminated with an iron gate.

12. Red-Lion-Street is widened at the end next to Holborn.

13. North-Street is continued into Great Ormond-Street.

14. New-Street is opened into Red Lion-Square.

15. One end of Southampton-Row and King-Street is widened, and likewiſe Queen-Street.

16. St. George's-Church Bloomſbury is detached and diſencumbered from the buildings; and ſtreets opened north and ſouth.

17. Hart-Street is continued into Soho-Square, and widened next Red-Lion-Square.

18. Two ſpacious ſtreets are opened into Broad St. Giles's, and one of them continued to Hanover-Street, Long-Acre.

19. Suppoſing the ſtreets near Bedford-Houſe, and the Britiſh-Muſeum to be built as in the plan, the gardens to thoſe houſes will form ſpacious ſquares, that would be pleaſant to the neighbourhood if there were iron rails inſtead of a coop'd up brick-wall.

20. Holborn is widened at the upper part next Drury-Lane.

21. St. Giles's-Church is diſencumbered, and according to the plan may be ſeen from five different ſtations.

22. The buildings in Oxford-Road, at the end of David-Street, are taken away, and that end of the ſtreet widened and continued in a line through Mary-le-Bone to the New-Road, inſtead of

following the aukward twiſting of the old way, as it does at preſent, which is ſhewn by the dotted lines in the plan.

23. Tenderdown-Street, Hanover-Square, is continued into Bond-Street.

24. Marlborough-Street is continued into Swallow-Street.

25. Groſvenor-Street is continued to St. George's-Church.

26. St. George's-Church, Hanover-Square, is diſencumbered from buildings in order that it may be properly ſeen.

27. Stretton-Street is opened from Piccadilly into Berkely-Square, and from thence the communication is continued through David-Street to the New-Road, and the whole is interſected by a great number of regular ſtreets.

28. Evans's-Row is continued into Berkley-Square.

29. Vigo-Lane is continued into Curzon-Street.

30. Old-Bond-Street is widened.

31. A great line of communication is formed from Clifford-Street through Silver-Street, Queen-Street, and from thence continued to St. Giles's.

32. Bruton-Street is widened at the end next to Bond-Street.

33. The ground on which Burlington-Houſe ſtands is laid out into elegant ſtreets, which form the following communications, *viz.* from Burlington-Street to Pall-Mall, from Piccadilly through Saville-Row into Conduit-Street, and from Piccadilly through Cork-Street to Conduit-Street-Chapel, (which chapel is diſencumbered) the demolition of Burlington-Houſe may be thought an extraordinary propoſition, but when it is conſidered what a prodigious improvement will be made in thoſe ſtreets about Burlington-Gardens, which are at preſent very inconveniently ſituated, that the rents of thoſe very ſtreets will be conſiderably augmented, and that the publick will loſe nothing in point of elegance but the removal of the dead-wall in Piccadilly, every objection that may be made to this alteration it is imagined will entirely vaniſh.

34. Swallow-Street is widened and terminated by St. James's-Church, it is great pity this church, which has been lately repaired, had not been ſtucco'd. In fact no publick edifice ought to be built with brick unleſs it is afterwards ſtucco'd, for a mere brick-face in

ſuch

ſuch buildings always makes a mean appearance, and for the ſame reaſon the ſteeples of ſtone-churches which are covered with lead and intended by their form to imitate ſtone, ought to be kept painted of ſtone-colour; the dome of St. Peter's-Church at Rome is compoſed of the ſame materials with the reſt of the building, and conſequently has a much grander effect than that of St. Paul, which is covered with lead; for which reaſon the dome of St. Paul's-Church ought to be painted of a ſtone-colour, which would bring the turret and the body of the church into harmony, and produce an effect in the whole that would greatly contribute to the grandeur of its appearance in every point of view; as the building with ſtone is ſo very expenſive in this metropolis, it is to be lamented that encouragement is not given to ſome ingenious perſon to find out a ſtucco or compoſition reſembling ſtone, more durable than the common ſort, and in which exterior ornaments might be eaſily wrought at a very eaſy expence.

35. A ſtreet is opened from the top of the Hay-Market of the ſame width, and continued to Oxford-Road, oppoſite to Winſlow-Street, which is alſo continued of the ſame width to the ſtreet now building at the back of the Middleſex-Hoſpital, and a ſtreet ſixty feet wide is carried on directly oppoſite to Winſlow-Street, to the New-Road.

36. Marlborough-Street is continued to Hanover-Square.

37. King-Street, Soho, is continued into the New-Street propoſed to be oppoſite the end of the Hay-Market.

38. Broad-Street is continued into Dean-Street one way, and into King-Street on the other.

39. Glaſs-Houſe-Street and Brewer-Street are widened, and continued into Dean-Street.

40. Mary-le-Bone-Street and Shug-Lane are widened, and laid down on parallel lines.

41. Caſtle-Street is continued to Swallow-Street and Shug-Lane.

42. Gerrard-Street is continued croſs Princes-Street, and comes at right angles into the New-Street propoſed to face the Hay-Market.

43. Liſle-Street is made fifty feet wide, and continued through Leiceſter-Gardens to Great Newport-Street, this would render Little

Newport-Street uſeleſs, which might therefore be built upon; and the bad ſituation of this ſtreet at preſent renders the property of very little value; Liſle-Street is alſo continued through Princes-Street until it falls into the New-Street propoſed oppoſite the Hay-Market, at right angles. Dean-Street is continued into Liſle-Street, and Greek-Street through Hayes's-Court. Rider's-Court is opened, and continued into the New-Street propoſed from Leiceſter-Fields to Long-Acre, *&c.*

44. An opening of ſixty feet wide is made through Leiceſter-Square from Piccadilly and continued into Long-Acre, the weſt end of Queen-Street, called the Devil's-Gap, is here opened equal to the breadth of that ſtreet, obliquely from Long-Acre, which is more convenient for carriages than it is at preſent.

45. From the opening at the north-eaſt corner of Leiceſter-fields before-mentioned, a ſtreet of fifty feet in breadth, making an acute angle with Long-Acre, is carried through St. Martin's-Court, croſſing St. Martin's-Lane into New-Street, which is kept of the ſame breadth to the end of King-Street. It may not be improper to obſerve, that a carriage from Coventry-Street before it comes into Long-Acre, makes ſix right angles, and from the ſame place into Covent-Garden, no leſs than eight, which, excluſive of the length of the way, is on account of the hazard and difficulty in making ſhort turnings very dangerous in the night *.

46. Hedge-Lane, Whitcombe-Street, Prince's-Street, Old-Soho and Wardour-Street, are made ſixty feet wide, and form one noble ſtreet from Cockſpur-Street to Oxford-Street, directly facing a new-ſtreet now building of the ſame dimenſions leading to the Middleſex-Hoſpital.

47. An opening is made from the upper end of Great Suffolk-Street, which is nearly on a line with Rupert-Street, which is continued by removing ſome few houſes at the upper end, and opening Walker's-Court into Berwick-Street.

48. The narrow end of Compton-Street is widened, and the angle taken off, to eaſe the dangerous turning into Knave's-Acre.

* A leſs expenſive ſcheme might be put in practice on this ſpot, but not ſo convenient for the publick as the above.

49. The

49. The upper end of Jermain-Street is opened into the Hay-Market, and Market-Street is carried croſs Piccadilly into Caſtle-Street, continued to Mary-le-Bone-Street, and Norris-Street is widened.

50. The Royal Stables at the Meuſe being inconveniently ſituated, it is ſuppoſed a more ſuitable ſpot might be found for that purpoſe, and a ſquare of elegant houſes is laid down in the plan in its place, which might, with great propriety, be called King's-Square, and a ſtatue of his Majeſty be erected in the center; a ſtreet of ſeventy feet in width is opened oppoſite to St. Martin's-Church (which is the width of the Portico) giving a noble view of the front, and on the weſt ſide of the Square another ſtreet of the ſame dimenſions which runs into Whitcomb-Street, and is continued a little obliquely into the Hay-Market, and directly oppoſite by removing the Bell-Inn, a fine ſtreet is carried into St. James's-Square, the end of King-Street is opened, and an uninterrupted communication is made from St. Martin's-Church to St James's-Street. Four ſtreets are opened from the angles of this ſquare, one of thoſe on the north ſide communicates with Leiceſter-Fields, and by removing the Stable-Yard belonging to Leiceſter-Houſe is continued and comes in a line with Frith-Street, which would leave ſufficient width for two houſes between that and Naſau-Street and prevent both a nuiſance and the melancholy appearance of a dead wall; the other falls into Hemings's-Row, which is widened, the two ſtreets on the ſouth ſide fall one into Cockſpur-Street, oppoſite to Spring-Garden, making an entire communication from thence to Soho-Square, and the other points to Charing-Croſs oppoſite to White-Hall; it is apprehended this ſquare, if executed with the ſurrounding improvements, would be of very great advantage to the publick as well as beneficial to private property.

51. The Hay-Market is continued to St. James's-Park, where a triumphal arch may be erected as a termination to the view, and make a noble entrance.

52. The end of Pall-Mall next the Hay-Market is widened, and from the propoſed opening from the Hay-Market into the Park, all that ſide of Pall-Mall next the Park is thrown into one regular grand range of buildings, with a central principal elevation, which ſhould be made to anſwer the center of St. James's-Square, and all

the houſes between Pall-Mall and the preſent entrances from thence into the ſquare are taken away, the center building would make a magnificent palace for ſome of the Royal Family, and the reſt of the buildings would be ſuitable to perſons of the firſt diſtinction, and the whole together produce a ſcene hardly to be parallelled.

53. Whenever it ſhall be determined to erect a Royal Palace, if the preference of ſituation ſhould be given to St. James's inſtead of Hyde-Park, it is preſumed the deſign laid down in the plan would be at leaſt as advantageous an one as can be contrived in that place, though far inferior to that deſigned for Hyde-Park, in this caſe particular attention muſt be given in order to obtain ſpace, and for that purpoſe all the buildings in the line on both ſides St. James's-Street to Old Bond-Street are taken down. This removal would give opportunity for raiſing the ground twenty feet, at St. James's next the Park, which would form a noble and ſpacious terrace, from which his Majeſty might occaſionally review his troops in the Green-Park, or at particular times be ſeen by his ſubjects without inconvenience, the terrace raiſed in this manner would bring the ground on which the palace ſtands nearly on a level with Piccadilly. Upon this ſpot the plan of a magnificent palace is given, fronting Eaſt and Weſt, compoſed of three quadrangles, the entrance to each of which are oppoſed to three great ſtreets, the center to King-Street, and the two others to Pall-Mall, and a new ſtreet of the ſame width as Pall-Mall that runs into York-Street, by this diſpoſition every poſſible and deſirable advantage would ariſe. If this ſituation could be obtained, the Eaſt front might be viewed from three very conſiderable avenues, and there can be nothing finer than the South and Weſt fronts, which are ſurrounded with verdure; this laſt and principal front has a fine view into the country, to preſerve which no buildings ſhould be ſuffered to be erected or to continue oppoſite to it, and inſtead of the preſent wall in the Green-Park, iron rails or a Ha-ha, ſhould be ſubſtituted as propoſed in Hyde-Park. A line is drawn from St. James's-Street to Hyde-Park-Corner, without break or projection, which would have a fine effect, and the ſituation of the buildings on the other ſide of Piccadilly would be rendered extremely pleaſant, and improve the view, eſpecially if they were to be all regularly deſigned and built with ſtone or ſtucco'd;

the

the Green-Park might be made a hanging level, and planted in a proper manner; in the great boundary line a ſmall part of the Green-Park is taken off in one place and added in another, as may be ſeen by the ſtrong dotted line which marks the boundary of the Park †. If the foregoing deſign was to take place, Hyde-Park-Corner would neceſſarily require ſome improvements to give it a correſponding character with the whole, and therefore it would be proper to erect a grand triumphal arch between the two Parks which would be a fine object from the palace, and mark with the greateſt propriety, the principal entrance into this great and opulent city. Indeed ſomething of this kind ſhould be erected at every principal entrance to the city of London.

54. The Royal palace being ſituated as above, it may be preſumed that the Queen's-Palace would be rendered uſeleſs, and accordingly in the plan it is taken down, as are all the adjacent buildings that incumber the Park, which is propoſed to be railed entirely round, the Wilderneſs is taken away, and the whole is propoſed to be raiſed; divided and planted in the manner deſcribed in the plate. The raiſing of the ground will be of infinite ſervice to the Park, as it will prevent damps, the clearing away the Wilderneſs will give it chearfulneſs and add greatly to its appearance; and if an Equeſtrian ſtatue or group of figures was erected in the center of the Parade it would have a fine effect, a ſpacious ſtreet is carried round the Park which would be of infinite ſervice to the publick, and the Park would be thereby rendered a more conſiderable object than it is at preſent. This delightful ſpot being ſo extremely uſeful and pleaſant, every part of it ſhould be kept ſacred, for which reaſon it is rather enlarged in the plan, nor ſhould encroachments ever be ſuffered to be made upon it on any account; if the propoſal for the alteration of Pall-Mall was to take place, the rails ſhould be continued in a ſtrait line to Spring-Garden, which would conſequently take a ſlip off from the garden belonging to Carlton-Houſe, which might be well ſpared, as it is at preſent of no real uſe. It is greatly

† In this poſition of a palace it would not in the leaſt interrupt St. James's-Park, and the Green-Park would give ſufficient garden-room (without being overlook'd) which St. James's very much wants.

to

to be lamented that the Royal indulgence is ſo much abuſed as it is, with reſpect to the Park, it ſeems at preſent to be in a fair way of becoming entirely deprived of its verdure by the unaccountable liberties which the common people take of trampling upon every part which their caprice and inſolence ſuggeſts. This, together with the uſual practice of training recruits in ſeveral parts of it, will if not timely ſtopped prove the utter ruin of the moſt delightful ſpot about the metropolis. To this may be added, the ſhameful neglect of the Park in general, of which not the leaſt care ſeems to be taken in any one part of the publick walks, but every thing is going to ruin as faſt as poſſible. The abuſe of the Park is not a little aggravated by the great number of private doors which are ſuffered, and are at once a reproach and a diſgrace to it. When the Old Mall was altered and gave place to the preſent form, all diſtinction between the publick walks was deſtroyed, for this reaſon the people of Quality, who had hitherto uninterruptedly poſſeſſed that place while it was kept in order, deſerted the Park in diſguſt, and the middling people, who could not hope to have reſpect enough ſhewn them by the inferior ſort, were compelled to retreat to the Green-Park, which by this practice is alſo in imminent danger of being deprived of every ſingle blade of graſs, becauſe no limitation is ſet to the inclinations of thoſe who uſually walk there. The Mall in a ſummer's evening was formerly one of the higheſt entertainments that can well be conceived, it was here that the people at a reſpectable diſtance could behold to advantage ſome of the greateſt perſonages and moſt beautiful objects in the kingdom, and the order and decorum in which it was kept at that time, was ſufficient to deter the meaner part of the people from intruding into a place which ſeemed by no means ſuited to perſons of their appearance. For this reaſon it is to be wiſhed that the old form was reinſtated, with the addition of a ſtone kirb in preference to the wooden one formerly uſed, and that it might be once more laid with cockle-ſhells inſtead of the miſerable coarſe gravel with which it is ſo deſpicably covered at this time. If this was done, the Park might probably recover its conſequence, and again become the theatre where beauty and nobility might be rendered conſpicuous and familiarized to the publick,

publick, who at this time are in general acquainted only with mere names and titles.

55. A ſpacious opening is made at Spring-Gardens from the Park, and continued to Charing-Croſs, oppoſite to the Strand.

56. A ſtrait line from Northumberland-Houſe is drawn to White-Hall, and two conſiderable ſtreets are formed which run down to the Thames, one of them directly fronts the Admiralty, which, ſuppoſing it to have been a good building, would have had a fine effect from the River. There is no doubt but the execution of theſe ſtreets would be both uſeful and elegant, as well as profitable, the ſituation is a very deſirable one, but Scotland-Yard as it now ſtands is nothing more than a ſcene of deſolation and deformity.

57. A center-piece and a ſimilar building to the Banqueting-Houſe is added, the entrance to which falls directly oppoſite to the Horſe-Guards, the inner court forms a ſquare of three ſides next the Thames, two of which are compoſed of colonades, and the fourth ſide is open to the Thames. The center and additional building might with the greateſt propriety be appropriated for the uſe of ſeveral offices appertaining to the government; the whole would have a very noble effect, and be a means of introducing a publick ornament truly elegant and uſeful.

58. Privy-Garden is formed into a ſquare, and on the north and ſouth ſides openings are made to the Thames, which laſt is continued to the Park. The preſent form of this advantageous ſpot is by no means equal to its ſituation, and exhibits at beſt but an indigeſted heap of whims and abſurdity.

59. The ſhadowed part between the ends of Parliament-Street and King-Street next to White-Hall, is deſigned as one of two places propoſed to be converted into a town-hall, or inferior court of juſtice for the city and immenſe liberties of Weſtminſter, a convenience which is extremely wanted and which will make a fine termination. The mean obſcure ſpot in King-Street, where the courts are at preſent held, is an inſuperable objection to the attendance of many of the gentlemen who are in the commiſſion of the peace for the city of Weſtminſter, by which means every tranſaction of that court falls into the hands of certain dealers

uſually diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of trading juſtices, who will give their attendance in a place where others, who love decency and decorum, cannot prevail upon themſelves to be ſeen; and the reſult of this inconvenience is, that juſtice is no doubt uſually adminiſtered as it may. Certainly a reſpectable building, conveniently ſituated for the adminiſtration of publick juſtice, ought to be erected, and it is to be lamented ſo great and opulent a city as Weſtminſter is not under better regulation, and governed in the ſame manner as its ſiſter city, whoſe laws and privileges are ſalutary and extenſive, and render it an object of reſpect and dignity; why the city of Weſtminſter ſhould ſo long have retained only the name without the privileges of a city, when it is nearly as large as that of London, and conſequently requires to be as well governed, is a queſtion that deſerves to be anſwered, but muſt be left to thoſe who are more immediately concerned in an affair of ſo much moment.

6o. King-Street in its preſent form is entirely deſtroyed, and a new ſtreet opened to the north door of the Abbey, one ſide of which is in a line with the ſquare propoſed to front the Abbey; the propoſed improvement of a ſquare oppoſite to the Cathedral will not only have a fine effect in point of view, but will alſo be the means of removing that intolerable nuiſance of a green-market, which according to the unaccountable taſteleſſneſs of modern undertakers, is almoſt thruſt under the very walls of the church, when it was impoſſible to turn round without obſerving a number of ſituations much better adapted for that purpoſe. It is hardly poſſible to imagine that ſo fine a building as the Abbey was originally intended to be crouded up with little paultry hovels. Dr. Wilcox, the late Biſhop of Rocheſter, who was a gentleman of taſte and judgment, ſwept away all thoſe houſes which ſtood cloſe to the church, between the north door and weſt end of it, and had he lived, in all probability, would have demoliſhed the remainder, as they damage the building as well as hide it; it is pity his original intention is not now put in execution, but above all things that diſmal horrid goal the gate-houſe ought to be pulled down, and accordingly in the plan it is thrown open, and Tothill

Street

Street widened, which gives a fine view of that part of the Abbey hitherto blocked up, and upon the repairs of which ſo much money appears to have been thrown away, becauſe it never could be ſeen properly, and conſequently a much leſs expence would have anſwered the purpoſe.

61. Charles-Street is continued croſs King-Street and Parliament-Street to the Thames.

62. A new ſtreet is made between King-Street and Duke-Street.

63. Duke-Street is continued into the Park at one end, and at the other into a new ſquare, formed in St. Margaret's Church-yard, and from thence to Dean's-Square, the Church is diſencumbered, and Dean's-Square is made larger than it is at preſent propoſed to be; Smith-Street is made to open in the center oppoſite to the continuation of Duke-Street, and another Street at the weſt end of this ſquare runs from the Park to the Thames; the reaſon for enlarging this ſquare and making the laſt mentioned ſtreet is, that the communication will be greatly improved, and the ground to be made uſe of on this occaſion now lies in ruins.

64. The part ſhadowed on the plan oppoſite to St. Margaret's-Church between the end of King-Street and New-Palace-Yard, is intended to point out another ſituation for a Court-Houſe or Guild-Hall for the city of Weſtminſter, which perhaps is a better ſituation than that at N° 59. as it is much larger, and has the further advantage of being inſulated.

65. The Houſe of Lords and Commons, Weſtminſter-Hall, and all the ſurrounding buildings are entirely taken away, and a new grand deſign, occupying in the whole, exactly the ſame ground, is propoſed; this pile of building ſtands in one noble area, the ground to be raiſed about twelve feet, on account of the riſing of the tides, and a large ſtreet is opened running ſouth to the Thames, and another at right-angles, croſſing Dean's-Square to the chapel in the Broadway. The general received opinion, that Weſtminſter-Hall is a fine ancient Gothic building, will no doubt be objected in oppoſition to this deſign; it is true, that Weſtminſter-Hall is a large ancient Gothic building, but that is all that ought to be ſaid of it, neither elegance or beauty is to be found

in it; and if the ſeveral courts of judicature were held in ſo many ſeparate rooms in Palace-Yard, provided they were only roofed to keep out the rain, they would in winter, perhaps, be equally warm and convenient; if the ideas of gloomineſs and horror are conſidered as neceſſary to grandeur and elegance, then indeed Weſtminſter-Hall is grand and elegant. It is commonly urged that the roof is remarkably fine, and it is at the ſame time ſaid to be the largeſt in England, perhaps in Europe, that is ſupported only by walls, but this is nothing more than a vulgar obſervation, when the prodigious high pitch of the roof, the thickneſs of the walls, and the advantage of the truſs is conſidered, this wonder ceaſes; and there are many barns in England which ſupport larger roofs, in proportion to the ſtrength of their ſides, than this boaſted Gothick edifice, which is ſo much admired and applauded on this account. In the plan the terrace of the front next the River is ſwelled in order to give room, and at the ſame time will have a fine effect both from the Thames and the bridge, and preſerve a character and decorum ſuitable to a building in which the laws of this great Kingdom are formed and executed.

66. The College-Garden might very eaſily be improved and made more chearful, by throwing it into a regular ſquare, and taking down the dead wall and erecting a dwarf one with iron rails; St. John's Church is opened to the Thames, and indeed if the whole of that wretched part of Weſtminſter was improved and diſpoſed in the manner pointed out in the plan, it would be better for the publick, more advantageous to the proprietors, and convenient to the inhabitants in general.

67. Having proceeded to the extremity of Weſtmiſter, it becomes neceſſary to return back to that end of the Strand which is next to St. Martin's-Lane and oppoſite to Northumberland-Houſe, the projection made in that part is in the plan taken off, and Cockſpur-Street in ſome places is made ſtrait.

68. The lower part of St. Martin's-Lane is widened, eſpecially that fronting the Church, in order to give room for coaches to turn, and the buildings which are about the church are detached, forming a regular paved ſquare, from which carriages are excluded; ſome

of

of the houſes are alſo thrown back in a line with the body of the church, by which means the portico will project and have a fine effect from Northumberland-Houſe; at preſent the expence beſtowed on the exterior part of that church anſwers very little purpoſe, there being no one point from whence it can poſſibly be ſeen to advantage, which is greatly to be lamented, as this is undoubtedly one of the moſt magnificent in London*. To finiſh the improvement in this quarter Little St. Martin's-Lane is likewiſe widened, and continued in a right line to St. Andrew's-Street at the Seven-Dials.

69. Caſtle-Street, Leiceſter-Fields, and Porter-Street are widened, and continued into Litchfield-Street, by which means the dangerous turning at the corner of Bear-Street is taken away.

70. Hog-Lane is widened and continued in a right line to Oxford-Road, the corner of Tottenham-Court-Road is taken off for the convenience of carriages, and if the lines of Tottenham-Court-Road were continued as in the plan, it would give a fine view of St. Giles's-Church, the ſtrong dotted lines continued from Oxford-Road to High-Holborn ſhew what a prodigious improvement might be made by joining thoſe two ſtreets in that manner, inſtead of the aukward curve made at Broad St. Giles's, which anſwers no end but that of obliging paſſengers of all kinds to go out of their way; and this would make one of the nobleſt ſtreets in Europe if well built.

71. A ſtreet is formed out of the ruins behind Monmouth-Street from the end of Compton-Street, into Broad St. Giles's.

72. Queen's-Street at the Seven-Dials, and Short's-Gardens are widened and carried to a new ſtreet propoſed, at right angles from Hide-Street into Great-Queen's-Street fronting the chapel, and another ſtreet is propoſed to run from Litchfield-Street Soho, into Little Queen's-Street; all which improvements, if properly attended to, muſt occaſion a prodigious alteration in the value of property in theſe parts. It is ſaid that an eſtate which formerly brought in

* Can any thing be more indecent, abſurd and taſteleſs, than the placing a paltry brick watch-houſe directly in front of the New-Church in the Strand? Where is the uſe of beſtowing expence on the outſide of buildings, if theſe nuiſances are ſuffered to be erected? This, in particular, not only hides the ſtructure, but ſpoils the ſtreet.

four thouſand pounds *per Annum*, does not at this time produce four hundred. The ſituation of this part of the town is unexceptionable, but the diſpoſition is extremely bad, and is the true reaſon that the buildings are either wholly deſerted or wretchedly inhabited.

73. James-Street in the Hay-Market, Blue-Croſs-Street, Orange-Street, Hemmings's-Row, Chandois-Street and Maiden-Lane, are widened, in order to render the way more commodious from the Hay-Market to Southampton-Street, and from the bottom of Chandois-Street a convenient outlet is made into the Strand. Theſe improvements will make a very convenient communication to the theatres and other parts.

74. An opening is made from Southampton-Street into Denmark-Court, which communicates with Exeter-Street, and makes a convenient paſſage from thence into Bridges-Street.

75. A ſpacious ſtreet is carried down to Hungerford-Stairs from the ſouth-eaſt angle of St. Martin's-Church, in which caſe the church will be ſeen from the Thames, and by this means the ground occupied by the market, which is of little or no uſe, will be much more profitably employed, as it is extremely well ſituated, and houſes never fail of letting well in any of the ſtreets leading to the river.

76. Bedford-Street is continued at one end through Half-Moon-Street and Durham-Yard to the Thames, and at the other end into Long-Acre, from whence it opens in two directions, one to the Seven-Dials, the other to Tower-Street, *&c.*

77. Durham-Yard is divided into ſtreets leading to the Thames, which will anſwer the ends of the proprietors better than if it was formed into a ſquare, as leſs room will be loſt. York-Buildings might be alſo greatly improved, as will appear by inſpecting the plan and comparing the preſent deſign with the old one. But ſuppoſing the market which is at preſent kept in Covent-Garden was to be removed, it could be carried no where with more propriety than to Durham-Yard, the ſituation of which is moſt conveniently adapted for the purpoſe of ſuch a market; this alteration would prove a double advantage, that ruinous place would be made both uſeful and profitable, Covent-Garden would be rendered one of the moſt

elegant

elegant ſquares in Europe, and on account of this improvement, and its advantageous ſituation, would, by the increaſe of the value of property, amply recompence the loſs occaſioned by the removal of the market. If this very deſirable alteration was to be made it would become neceſſary to rebuild the Piazzas, which are in a ruinous condition, this ſhould by all means be done with a ſtrict adherence to the preſent plan, than which nothing can be more noble and convenient, and if at the ſame time the houſes on the ſouth ſide were taken down and rebuilt with Piazzas, and the buildings on each ſide of the church built in character with the reſt, and the roof of that elegant ſtructure covered with ſlates inſtead of thoſe wretched mean looking tiles, the whole together would form one of the nobleſt and pictureſque ſcenes in the Univerſe.

78. A ſtreet about thirty feet wide is carried from Henrietta-Street, oppoſite the paſſage into the Church-Yard, to the Thames, and another from King-Street into Long-Acre, oppoſite Mercer-Street, which will be of much greater advantage than the mean inconvenient courts which are at preſent built on that ſpot.

79. The upper end of James-Street, Covent-Garden, is widened, and made equal to the lower, and Croſs-Lane and King-Street are continued of the ſame width to Broad St. Giles's.

80. Southampton-Street is widened at the end next the Strand, and continued to the Thames.

81. Henrietta-Street is continued in a ſtrait line through May's-Buildings and Bedford-Bury, into St. Martin's-Lane.

82. A ſtreet is formed from the ſouth-eaſt corner of Leiceſter-Fields and continued acroſs Caſtle-Street and St. Martin's-Lane to Bedfordbury, which is widened, and making an angle through Chandois-Street comes oppoſite to Buckingham-Street in the Strand.

83. A new-bridge is deſigned from the Savoy acroſs the river Thames, which is nearly the center between thoſe of Black-Fryers and Weſtminſter, a bridge in this place would be extremely uſeful for the more eaſy communication of the two ſides of the river; accordingly, upon this ſuppoſition, three direct lines have been formed on the Surry ſide from this bridge, *viz.* one to Black-Fryers-Bridge, another to Newington-Church, and a third to Weſtminſter-Bridge.

Bridge. Quays are alſo formed from bridge to bridge on both ſides the Thames, and by this means the communication of the banks of the river is kept open, ſo that carriages and foot-paſſengers may proceed on their buſineſs ſafely without interruption; the breadth from the breaſt of the quay to the houſes is not leſs than one hundred feet; but if one hundred and twenty feet was allowed it would be better, and this ſpace ſhould be divided by poſts and chains, ſixty feet ſhould be allowed for carriages and foot-paſſengers, and the other ſixty for landing of goods, &c. The houſes ſhould be elegantly built, with large court-yards and ware-houſes behind them, they ſhould alſo be kept in a line, and not ſuffered to project one before the other, for this reaſon there are no docks in the plan, but the breaſt of the quay runs as regularly as the current of the river will permit. The quays, wharfs and ſtreets, ought to be under the inſpection of proper perſons, who ſhould keep them in repair, and take every poſſible method to prevent rubbiſh and filth from being thrown into the river, the ſhores of which ought, if practicable, to be covered with water. By this means the banks of the river will be rendered of ſervice to the publick, great part of which is now uſeleſs and in ruins; certainly no part of London is better adapted by nature for buſineſs, nor is any part of the town more neglected, eſpecially on the Surry ſide; or, conſidering the advantage that might be made of it, in a more wretched condition.

84. A ſemi-circular opening is made at the entrance of the bridge above-mentioned, from which three ſtreets are made, the firſt in a direct line to the Strand, oppoſite Exeter-Exchange, which is removed, and a ſtreet opened from thence to Charles-Street, this and Bow-Street are widened, and at the top branch into two ſtreets, one of which comes into Long-Acre, oppoſite Hanover-Street, which is widened from thence to Broad St. Giles's, and the other into Drury-Lane to the end of Great Queen-Street. One of the oblique ſtreets opened from the bridge runs to Catherine-Street, and the other to Southampton-Street. It has been propoſed to form the Savoy, which lies in ruins, into ſquares; but if this ſcheme of a new bridge was put into execution, the proprietors would not

find their account in ſo doing, as the laying it into ſtreets would be more advantageous. Indeed, if no bridge is built from the Savoy, then a ſquare or ſquares of three ſides, the fourth to be open next the water, would be extremely proper, and produce a fine effect. In this caſe, as the ſituation of the Savoy is low, which would be inconvenient, and rather damp for dwelling-houſes, a baſement-ſtory might be erected, which ſhould be vaulted, and might be formed into very extenſive ware-houſes, which being made to project conſiderably before the dwelling-houſes, would form a fine terrace round the ſquare, upon which the buildings for dwelling ſhould be erected; theſe ware-houſes might be accommodated with a piazza, which would be extremely convenient for the ſeveral purpoſes of thoſe who rented them, as their ſervants might work ſecurely under them in all weathers; this might be elegantly, as well as uſefully, adorned with flights of ſteps, and a baluſtrade round the whole, and a grand entrance for carriages, made from the Strand through a large arch in the center of the ſquare, and alſo a convenient and elegant landing place (or places) from the river; the ſituation being nearly in the center of the two cities, and commanding one of the nobleſt views upon the river, would be extremely convenient for buſineſs, which might be here carried on without interruption to the dwelling-houſes, and would not only be very uſeful, but perhaps the only thing of its kind in Europe. Several other places between the Strand and the Thames, might be advantageouſly laid out in the ſame manner, and as variety would add greatly to the beauty of the appearance of ſuch objects from the river, the plans might be alternately changed into ſegments of circles.

85. The Strand is widened from Southampton-Street to Exeter-Exchange, the meaſure at the corner of Burleigh-Street being only thirty feet ſix inches.

86. A new ſtreet is formed from Catherine-Street to Drury-Lane, oppoſite Exeter-Street.

87. A ſtreet of the ſame width with York-Street is made from Bridges-Street into Drury-Lane, and continued through White-Horſe Yard to Vere-Street. Little Bridges-Street is carried on in a ſtrait line, and Drury-Lane Theatre is detached in ſuch a manner as to

render the paſſages commodious, and prevent confuſion in going in or coming out.

88. Ruſſel-Street is continued into Drury-Lane of an equal breadth, Princes-Street and Duke-Street are continued alſo of the ſame width to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and Great Wild-Street, Stanhope-Street, and Vere-Street, are likewiſe widened.

89. The narrow parts of Drury-Lane are widened, eſpecially that next the New-Church, which at preſent meaſures only fifteen feet, this and the ſeveral improvements before propoſed, will become uſeful to the publick, as they all tend towards rendering the avenues to both the Theatres ſafe and commodious.

90. A line is formed from Arundel-Street to Temple-Bar, which falls back from the ſmall arch of that gate eight feet, if this deſign was put in execution, the ſtreet would be ſufficiently widened for Carriages and foot-paſſengers, and be thereby rendered extremely commodious; an improvement which every one is ſenſible is much wanted. As this is the great thorough-fare between the two cities, the houſes, which at preſent lie behind thoſe in the Strand, will be hereby rendered of more value, and the ſhops in that part of the Strand become of much more conſequence than they are at preſent; the extreme narrowneſs and inconvenience of the way being an inſuperable hindrance to buſineſs in that part. This ſituation, if regulated in the manner propoſed, would become perhaps of as much conſequence as any in London, and therefore no apology need be made for propoſing ſuch an alteration, but can never become ſo, unleſs a ſpirit of improvement among the owners of the ground in that neighbourhood ſhould prevail.

91. Holywell-Street is widened in ſuch a manner as to give convenient room for carriages and foot-paſſengers to paſs and repaſs, and that and the narrow ſtreet by the ſide of the New-Church are laid on a line, and meaſure forty feet in breadth; the ſpace at the eaſt-end is alſo enlarged, ſo as to admit of carriages going quite round the church.

92. Wych-Street is widened and made to come in a ſtrait line to Temple-Bar, in the ſame manner as that on the other ſide of the way, that is eight feet back from the ſmall archway, the houſes

are

are taken away that incumber St. Clement's-Church, which is deſcribed by dotted lines, and if the whole of the houſes are not taken away from the church to the Bar, there ought to be ſo many removed at the eaſt-end as will give room to the church, and it is of very great conſequence to the publick, to keep this vaſt thoroughfare free from incumbrances.

93. Haughton-Street is continued into Drury-Lane.

94. Carey-Street is continued into Vere-Street, and widened at that end next to Chancery-Lane.

95. Portugal-Street is continued in a ſtrait line, till it meets that ſtreet which comes from the angle of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, which is widened and carried down into York-Street, Covent-Garden. This will be a very uſeful communication from that part of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and it would have been better for the ſquare if the opening had been made from Duke-Street into the angle, inſtead of making it at the arch.

96. Searle-Street is widened and continued quite down to the Thames, and the oppoſite angle is opened into Holborn. This will make one of the moſt convenient communications in the whole town, nor is there any thing of conſequence to prevent its being put in execution, the ſituation being a very fine one; the undertakers would find themſelves extremely well rewarded, as the rents would be vaſtly improved by making this avenue to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, which has not one good or proper entrance into it: Indeed moſt of the ſquares are very deficient in this reſpect, it would be no inconſiderable advantage to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, if, inſtead of the terrace-wall, there was only a dwarf one with iron-rails, in which caſe the gardens would make an elegant boundary on that ſide of the ſquare, which would then be the moſt pleaſant, as well as the moſt ſpacious ſquare in Europe.

97. Chancery-lane, at the end next Holborn, is widened, and Fullwood's-Rent oppoſite to it is alſo widened, and if a dwarf-wall, with iron-rails, was made, inſtead of the garden-wall in Chancery-Lane, it would have a very good effect, indeed, both this and Gray's-Inn-Gardens might be then viewed from the ſame ſtation.

98. If the utility of another bridge at the Savoy is allowed, and ſhould ever be put in execution, it is apprehended, that the communications propoſed in the plan, at the ſeveral bridges, would be found to be very convenient, and at Weſtminſter in particular, where a more aukward diſpoſition can hardly be imagined, as evidently appears by the dotted lines which repreſent the communications as they ſtand at this time; why they were originally formed in this manner is hard to ſay, but certainly had they been diſpoſed in the manner now offered, they would have been more elegant as well as more convenient. It appears from the plan, that a direct line is made from the Bridge to Newington-Church, another to St. George's-Church, and a third to London-Bridge, all which might have been originally made by the Commiſſioners of Weſtminſter-Bridge, and ſince the building Black-Fryers Bridge has given an opportunity, another communication is given to that. Whenever an occaſion offers, every advantage ſhould be taken, and every approach to a publick ſtructure, like the bridge at Weſtminſter, ought to be made as regular as poſſible; however, upon an after-thought, the diſpoſition of the area at the foot of Weſtminſter Bridge as deſcribed by the dotted lines, which cut off the angular projections, is preferred, as thereby the grand communication from the propoſed New-Bridge to Vauxhall is made more regular and convenient. This avenue is deſigned as a communication for ſuch perſons as may not chuſe to paſs by the wharfs which are deſcribed upon the banks of the river.

PLATE

PLATE the SECOND.

Contains on a larger ſcale the improved parts about LEICESTER-FIELDS, COVENT-GARDEN, the MEUSE, *&c.* in which the meaſures of the principal ſtreets are figured.

PLATE the THIRD.

Contains improvements in the CITY of LONDON about the MANSION-HOUSE, ROYAL-EXCHANGE, MOOR-FIELDS, *&c.*

1. A large area or ſquare is formed in the front of the Manſion-Houſe, which may be compoſed of houſes as elegantly built as the interſection of ſo many ſtreets will permit, from one angle of which a large commodious ſtreet ſeventy feet wide may be continued to Moorgate, and from thence to the city road. It muſt be confeſſed there is very little hope that this or any one of the improvements propoſed in or about the city will ever be put in execution, however beneficial or convenient they may appear to be, ſince a propoſal of a ſimilar kind was by the ignorance and ſelfiſhneſs, to call it no worſe, of ſome individuals, entirely defeated, though it was manifeſtly calculated to do eſſential ſervice to the city. It has been the faſhion ever ſince the Manſion-Houſe was erected to condemn and abuſe it as a miſerable performance, but it by no means deſerves ſuch treatment; the truth is, that the architect has given the city an elegant deſign in the ſtile of that great maſter Palladio, and it is as true that the miſerable circumſcribed area upon which he was obliged to build it, is the cauſe why it makes no better an appearance, and the neceſſity impoſed upon him of putting an Egyptian-Hall in an Engliſh houſe is the reaſon why thoſe heavy loads of ſtone appear upon the roof, which co-operating with the hole it ſtands in, ſeem to have preſſed the whole building into the earth. When this edifice was erected, the oppoſite houſes in Walbrook poured the ſmoke of their chimneys into the Lord

Mayor's apartments, and the citizens had not ſpirit enough, until a long time afterwards, to remove this intolerable nuiſance. The truth is, if when they had determined to erect a Manſion-Houſe they had reſolved to do it ſuitably to the importance of ſo great a city, they ſhould have purchaſed and taken down all that range of houſes between Bucklers-Bury and the Poultry, and built the front of the Manſion-Houſe directly facing Cheapſide, and at the ſame time have raiſed the ground on which it now ſtands; this would have given it a fine elevation, and in that caſe the front might have been brought forward in a line with the ſteeple of Walbrook-Church, which would have given the building a ſufficient depth if it had been wanted; thoſe incumbrances on the top would have been omitted, and the very building which has been ſo unjuſtly cenſured, would have appeared extremely noble and magnificent, as the front by being extended would have given a more elegant proportion to the portico, add to all this that by raiſing the ground, the water would have been effectually prevented from running into the houſe, which it has always done whenever a ſtoppage was produced by a ſevere froſt or ſudden ſhower.

2. Two fine ſquares are formed in Moorfields, by means of a double row of good houſes marked A. which divides the upper from the lower ſquare, taking off from the Artillery Ground as much as would make a ſingle row of houſes marked B. to compleat the weſt ſide of the upper ſquare. This, beſides the addition of regularity, would render it ſafe and convenient, and if new ſtreets were built as laid down in the plan, inſtead of the wretched narrow ones now in being, it would certainly raiſe the value of property, not only to the city, but to a great number of individuals, by improving this part of the town ſo convenient for its neighbourhood to the Royal-Exchange and the publick offices. A new ſtreet is laid down oppoſite to Chiſwell-Street into White-Chapel, which would make a fine uſeful communication between that and Shoreditch-Road.

3. A convenient ſtreet is opened from Moorfields to Throgmorton-Street through Auſtin-Fryars. A vaſt number of alleys are deſtroyed, and a ſquare of handſome houſes in their ſtead are made

to

to ſurround Draper's-Gardens, ſtreets of communication are made from hence into Broad-Street and Coleman-Street, the new ſtreet fronting the Manſion-Houſe, two to Throgmorton-Street, and one to Auſtin-Fryars. If Bethlehem Hoſpital, which is a moſt deteſtable nuiſance to the neighbourhood, was removed to ſome more convenient place out of the town, one of the nobleſt ſquares imaginable might be built. The place on which the hoſpital ſtands is accordingly formed into a double range of buildings *, one of which fronts Moorfields, and the other a range of houſes to be erected in the room of thoſe deſpicable ones which now front London Wall. By this means a part of the city which is at preſent not only uſeleſs in a great degree but inconvenient and dangerous, is at once made elegant and commodious, and if the propoſed alteration of Draper's-Gardens, *&c.* ſhould ever take place, a grand line of communication will be made from the bank and ſquare through the center of Moorfields, interſecting a number of other ſtreets and continued into Old Street-Road at Hoxton. Theſe alterations will be the means of deſtroying a vaſt number of courts and alleys, and make the proprietors of thoſe places ample amends by rendering their eſtates of prodigious value, which at preſent are worth little or nothing; if the citizens of London were inclined to remove Bethlehem-Hoſpital, they have undoubtedly the fineſt opportunity imaginable of making the moſt noble and magnificent ſquare in the Univerſe. This might be done by intirely taking down all thoſe mean buildings which are called Brokers-Row, and laying the whole ſquare entirely open upon a line with Old Bethlehem. It is eaſy to conceive what a noble uſe might be made of this deſign, it would at once become an elegant and convenient ſituation for the wealthier citizens, and at the ſame time be rendered one of the moſt entertaining and pleaſant places in the kingdom. In the midſt of this vaſt area a baſon might be made capable of holding a prodigious quantity of water which would ſerve as a reſervoir in caſe of fire, which ſo frequently does immenſe damage in this metropolis for want of ſuch a ſupply,

* There is ſufficient room here for ſpacious openings behind the houſes, which is of very great conſequence, not only in caſe of fire, but in reſpect to air and light.

and

and the earth thrown out of the baſon would be made uſeful in raiſing the ground.

4. Coleman-Street is continued into Chiſwell-Street facing the Artillery-Ground, and the ſtreet at London-Wall is made wider, and the new ſtreets on each ſide Moorfields are made regular and correſponding, as appears by the plan.

5. Lothbury and Throgmorton-Street are widened.

6. Caſtle-Alley and Swithin's-Alley are widened in ſuch a manner that carriages may paſs freely round the Royal-Exchange *, and the former is made to ſerve as an avenue to the Bank, the trifling ſhops which ſurround the columns of the Exchange, and intirely ſpoil the whole building, ſhould be taken away, and the eaſt and weſt ſides finiſhed to ſuit with the front. Exchange-Alley is laid out in a regular manner, and made much more convenient than it is at preſent.

7. The Bank of England is formed into a regular ſquare, with four entrances, by this means the buildings are enlightened and detached ſo as to prevent any accident which might happen from fire in the neighbourhood. The narrow end of Threadneedle-Street is widened, which is now only fourteen feet nine inches. The front building of the Bank, and all the buildings from thence to Bartholomew-Lane, are taken down, and one grand front is formed, the center of which comes directly oppoſite the opening propoſed in Caſtle-Alley; but the above deſign is entirely defeated by the method purſuing at this time oppoſite the Bank, which by univerſal conſent is allowed to be a piece of deformity. The Bank only wanted one convenient ſpacious opening into Cornhill, for the purpoſe of giving room for carriages to paſs and repaſs to and from their publick office, and conſequently there was no occaſion for that pitiful blind alley which is now made between their buildings and the Exchange; had the opening been made as in the plan, the oblique line the Bank makes with the Exchange would hardly have been perceived, but as the affair is now managed, the Exchange is ſpoiled, the Bank is ſpoiled, and Cornhill is ſpoiled; the truth is, that if the ſpirit of building, which

* If it was not for ſpoiling corner houſes, it would be moſt convenient for carriages if the angles were taken off, eſpecially where the ſtreets are very narrow.

ſeems

ſeems to have poſſeſſed the directors of the Bank, had been rightly directed, they ſhould have done more, they ought to have purchaſed the whole pile of buildings between them and Cornhill, from the Manſion-Houſe to the Exchange, and have pulled them down and left the whole ſpace open. This would have been a deſirable and a noble work, and poſſibly in time the General Poſt-Office would have been removed to a more convenient building, which might have been erected oppoſite to and correſpondent with the Bank, in that caſe the Exchange being finiſhed as before-mentioned, a noble and convenient area might have been formed which would have produced one of the moſt conſiderable ornaments of the city. The irregular poſition of the churches prevents the placing of the Bank at right angles with the Exchange.

8. Pig-Street is widened, and a new one opened at right angles from thence into Threadneedle-Street fronting Merchant Taylor's Hall.

9. The Poultry Compter being a nuiſance that ought to be removed to a more ſuitable place, a ſtreet has been made from the ſquare before the Manſion-Houſe, which runs into the Old Jewry; this ſtreet was deſigned in order to make the area of the ſquare more regular, and would make a good uſeful avenue.

10. The ſtreets about the Manſion-Houſe are widened, in order to procure convenient room on publick days for coaches and other carriages to paſs and repaſs without interruption or danger to foot paſſengers.

PLATE THE FOURTH.

Contains improvements about LONDON-BRIDGE, the CUSTOM-HOUSE, TOWER, *&c.*

The alterations in this plate appear at the firſt view to be ſo very conſiderable, that an apology for not giving a minute explanation of every particular is needleſs, as it would be both tedious and troubleſome, it has been thought ſufficient therefore to mention only ſome of the moſt remarkable parts, and to ſay in general that this part of the city is laid out in ſo inconvenient a manner that there was an abſolute neceſſity to new model the whole, or leave it in the ſtate it now ſtands. This as it is a part ſo

extremely well ſituated and ſo immediately connected with the mercantile part of the nation could not poſſibly be omitted, and therefore care has been taken to make every poſſible improvement, and to give ſuch hints as might ſhew that no attention to this ſpot has been ſpared which might render it commodious, elegant and uſeful. The preſent Cuſtom-Houſe-Quay meaſures only forty-four feet three inches, and the ſtreet behind it twenty-nine feet, which is figured in the plan; it is aſtoniſhing how ſo much buſineſs can poſſibly be carried on in a place which is ſo extremely crouded, and conſequently perpetually confuſed. Thoſe only can form an idea of it whoſe buſineſs or curioſity prompt them to become ſpectators of this ſcene of hurry and confuſion. There is no doubt but that the tranſactions of the greateſt trading port in the world are here carried on notwithſtanding theſe inconveniences; but certainly thoſe who have any thing to do at the Cuſtom-Houſe Quay muſt find it extremely troubleſome as well as dangerous, and ſurely if more ſpace was allowed much time might be ſaved by the facility with which the uſual kinds of buſineſs would be tranſacted there. In order therefore to give ample room, the breaſt-work of the quay is deſigned by the ſegment of a circle from Fiſhmongers-Hall to the Tower, and the whole range of buildings is thrown back to the upper ſides of Thames-Street, parallel to the line of the quay *; the whole is formed in a regular deſign, an elegant new front is propoſed for Fiſhmongers-Hall at one end of the quay, and a new entrance to the Tower at the other, the church of St. Magnus is removed to the angle marked C †, and another church is propoſed ſimilar to that at D, the whole

* An objection may poſſibly be made to the propoſal of keeping the quays open, which is the neceſſity of having ware-houſes built cloſe upon the breaſt of the wharfs, without any intermediate ſpace between them and the river, but though this diſpoſition might ſuit ſome few individuals extremely well, yet it would be very inconvenient to the publick in general, beſides deſtroying the grandeur and effect of the whole; the banks of the river on each ſide, as ſpecified in the plans, ought to be the property of the publick, to prevent impediments in buſineſs, and the wharfs ſhould be maintained and kept in order by the merchants, who ſhould pay a certain annual ſum for that purpoſe.

† Whilſt London-Bridge was repairing, the church received conſiderable damage by fire. This circumſtance made moſt of the inhabitants of the pariſh (who were reduced by the removal of the houſes upon it to a very inconſiderable number) deſirous of having the church taken down, and to unite themſelves to another pariſh, as the expence

whole building of the Cuſtom-Houſe is detached, the ſtreet and end fronts of the building are deſigned with arcades, and alſo a grand range of arcades on each ſide the Cuſtom-Houſe next the river is made in order to ſhelter thoſe whoſe buſineſs obliges them to attend that place in bad weather: theſe arcades are propoſed to be raiſed a ſtep or two, and to have ſeats and iron rails between the piers to keep them from being encumbered with goods. The openings about the two churches are intended only as foot-paths to communicate with the arcades, a ſufficient number of ſpacious ſtreets are deſigned from the quay to accommodate the buſineſs tranſacted there, and the buildings between them and over the arcades are intended for a noble range of ware-houſes, the utility of which need not be pointed out. Upon the breaſt of the Cuſtom-Houſe-Quay, in the front of the building, a large ſweep or ſwell is formed into the river, and is deſigned for a landing place; but if this ſhould be thought too great an encroachment upon the river, or liable to cauſe any obſtruction, an internal ſegment might be formed within the quay in its ſtead, but this would rather interrupt the buſineſs, and in point of elegance would be far inferior to the deſign given in the plan. It is likewiſe propoſed in the plan to fill up Billinſgate-Dock, and the whole market is flung into the quay, which in its preſent ſtate it would entirely interrupt. A deſign however is not given for a fiſh-market, but one might be very eaſily ſupplied in that part of the quay next London-Bridge, there being room enough for a much more commodious market than the preſent.

2. Tower-Hill is attempted to be laid out with ſome kind of regularity, by opening the whole into one great ſpace, a part of the ground for the ſake of variety is incloſed with iron rails, and is ſuppoſed to be covered with verdure, which would make it at once pleaſant and uſeful to the inhabitants, as the buildings which divide the great from little Tower-Hill are but of ſmall value they have been taken away. The Navy-Office is placed oppoſite to the Victualling-Office, which it is apprehended is in a more con-

pence of repairing it amounted to a conſiderable ſum; but this uſeful ſcheme was entirely defeated by the ignorance of ſome and wilfulneſs of others who oppoſed it, and the church was conſequently ſuffered to remain an incumbrance, and to occupy a ſpace which might be employed to the greateſt advantage to the publick in general,

venient ſituation than the preſent. The Victualling-Office is made extremely ſpacious and commodious; the buildings ſhaded in the center of Tower-Hill, might be applied for the uſe of ſome publick office or hall, and would have a good effect; the line of houſes on each ſide of the Tower are kept at equal diſtances, the Tower-Wharf is widened, and conſequently ſome alterations made in that place, as appears by the plan. It is great pity that the Tower itſelf is not kept in better repair, there are ſeveral parts of it which might be improved and made decent at leaſt, the outer wall in particular wants a thorough repair, and ſome offenſive objects ſhould be removed. Many trifling buildings erected by the inhabitants ought to be taken away, and although the Tower is a place incapable of being defended, yet the appearance at leaſt of a place of defence ſhould be preſerved as much as poſſible. In ſhort for want of a proper attention to decorum this great arſenal is ſuffered to appear in a manner very ill becoming the character and dignity of this great capital, when a very trifling expence would render it an object worthy of notice and make it as ornamental as it is uſeful. It is not doubted that moſt people will be ſtruck with the expence attending this and many other improvements propoſed in this work, but however impertinent or foreign to the preſent deſign it may appear, it may not be improper to remind them, that it becomes the indiſpenſible duty of every nation, as well as of every private man, to take care of the repairs of their own houſes before they think of refitting thoſe of their neighbours, the expence of theſe improvements may be murmured againſt as unneceſſary, by ſome who would make no ſcruple of giving their aſſent to the expending of millions for the ſupport of the colonies and ſettlements in North America, a thing perhaps more deſtructive in its conſequences to this nation than they may be aware of; the example of the kingdom of Spain is a glaring proof of the abſurdity of ſuch a conduct, the Spaniards, as well as the Engliſh, have been colony mad, Spain has been undone by this infatuation, and it is to be feared from the preſent temper of our own colonies, that we are not likely to be in a much better ſituation. If we have too many poor people among us, employ them at home in works of ſupererogation, if any one pleaſes to call them ſo, rather than ſend them to the colonies, where they no ſooner arive than they ſet up for themſelves,

themſelves, and like the ſnake in the fable, wound the very hand that has revived, nouriſhed and ſupported them. The French have been compelled to do, what in policy they ought to have done without compulſion, that is, they have given up their intereſt in a part of the world which would one day have proved the ruin of that nation in Europe: The number of inhabitants in London, at this time may perſuade ſome people to imagine that the kingdom is encreaſed in numbers, but this is a miſerable miſtake, the towns and villages in England decreaſe inſtead of increaſing their inhabitants, London and the Britiſh colonies ſwallow them all up, nor has there been one new city, town or village formed in the kingdom in the preſent century, Birmingham, Mancheſter and Sheffield indeed have encreaſed prodigiouſly, but they, like the Americans, have only drained other places for ſupplies, with this difference however that thoſe people do not quit their native country, whereas thoſe ſent to the colonies very rarely return again.

3. In that part of the Borough of Southwark which is laid down in this plate, the wharfs are made of the ſame dimenſions with thoſe on the London ſide, the bridge is made to open in a ſpacious circular form, and as the houſes that compoſe the avenues are ſuppoſed to be regularly built, the whole would produce a fine effect, and be at once uſeful and elegant. The ſtreets are widened, and new ones are deſcribed, which would make this part of the town extremely convenient, and certainly is infinitely preferable to its preſent confuſed diſpoſition which, like too many other places in this metropolis, is utterly deſtitute of form and convenience, though extremely well ſituated for buſineſs, and ſo circumſtanced as to be very eaſily improved.

4. The breaſt-work of all the wharfs on this ſide of the river ought to be raiſed ſo as to prevent the higheſt tides from overflowing them. The expence of doing this would not be very great, as the materials for raiſing the earth are on the ſpot, the ground which might be taken out of the river would not only ſerve to raiſe the wharfs but would alſo improve it by deepening the water near its edges, which in places of this kind is much wanted. Before this explanation of the plates is concluded it becomes neceſſary to apologize for ſuch particular parts of the firſt plate as ſeem to

contradict the authors ſentiments in regard to extending the buildings of this city as it appears upon inſpecting the plate, that notwithſtanding what has been urged againſt the increaſe of buildings in this metropolis, a great number of new ſtreets are propoſed and laid down between the new buildings and the great boundary line or new road. Of theſe therefore it is neceſſary to ſay that they are only to be conſidered as examples or directions in caſe no reſtraint is to be laid upon builders, and that hereafter if any man takes upon him to build in an aukward, inelegant manner, he may not even have the common excuſe to urge, that he really knew no better. Another conſideration is, that in caſe any of the interior alterations ſhould be put in execution, and by that means houſes ſhould be pulled down to make room for new avenues, it would occaſion the perſons who are obliged to quit their habitations to ſeek for other places of abode, and accordingly ſtreets have been planned which may be applied for theſe purpoſes; in this caſe buildings will not be multiplied but extended, and as air and convenience is thereby given to the interior parts, no one would be againſt building within a limited ſpace for the accommodation of ſuch perſons as were obliged to quit their former ſituations.

The author flatters himſelf it will be allowed, that in this undertaking he has ſpared no pains to improve what he thought wanted improvement, and he is very ready to acknowledge on his part, that probably his zeal in the execution of his deſign may have led him into ſome errors and abſurdities, of which for want of information in regard to particular circumſtances, he could not poſſibly have any idea; but where reaſonable objections can be made he is ready to give up ſuch parts of his deſign, and only lament the exiſtence of impediments of any kind. However he hopes that if much muſt unnavoidably be rejected, that much alſo may be put in execution, and that if ſome parts of his work are liable to cenſure, from whatever cauſe, that others will be found not to deſerve it, and conſequently that upon the whole his attempt will meet with the approbation of the publick, for whoſe uſe and advantage it was undertaken.

Some OBSERVATIONS upon, and PROPOSALS relating to, PLACES which are not laid down in the PLANS.

It may not be improper or diſagreeable to the reader, to conſider the ſeveral Royal Palaces of Windſor and Hampton-Court, Richmond-Gardens and Richmond-Park, and their ſituations; Windſor-Caſtle is perhaps, in point of ſituation and effect, one of the nobleſt objects in the univerſe, though the parts of which it is compoſed are far from being elegant; however, many conſiderable improvements might be made, which would be of great advantage and make it a much more pleaſing object than it is at preſent; for inſtance, all the houſes between the Caſtle and the Thames might be taken away quite to the bridge, and a grand flight of ſteps made to lead up to the center of the building on the north-ſide next the river. This would have a noble effect from the oppoſite ſhore, and if a fine ſtone-bridge was erected directly oppoſite to theſe ſteps, inſtead of the preſent mean wooden one, it would give a truly magnificent appearance to the whole. The caſtle itſelf is very irregular, and this irregularity is heightened by the great number of mean hovels and brick-walls with which the courts are crowded, and which by no means anſwer the character of a Royal Palace. All the offenſive ſmoaky houſes, which join to the caſtle, ſhould likewiſe be removed, as well as many others which might be taken away, in order to make a ſpacious and regular approach to the caſtle from the town*. Indeed it is a great pity the terrace had not been continued round that part of the caſtle next to the buildings, which would have effectually detached them from it, and made all that part much more convenient and pleaſant. The whole building ſhould be ſaſhed, which would give chearfulneſs to the apartments, and have a better effect in the exterior view of the caſtle. The grand court ought to be laid with gravel, inſtead of being paved, which, if it was well kept, would prevent the diſagreeable melancholly effect

* If the town was regularly laid out and well built, ſo as to correſpond with the whole, it would be a very conſiderable advantage to its inhabitants: from the great reſort of viſitors, not only to view the caſtle, but for the ſake of the country round it.

occaſioned

occaſioned by the graſs growing in the interſtices of the pavement. The Chapel, which contains the tomb of the celebrated Cardinal Wolſey, is employed at preſent as a maſon's workſhop. It is much to be lamented that this building, which is an elegant piece of Gothick architecture, is not thoroughly repaired, in the doing which, however, particular care ſhould be taken to preſerve the original deſign, and no innovations ſhould be ſuffered to be made. That elegant Gothick pile of St. George's-Chapel is moſt miſerably encumbered on the north-ſide with deſpicable buildings, which entirely deſtroy the effect of the whole fabrick, theſe ſhould be immediately removed; the finiſhing of that whole chapel is exquiſite, and undoubtedly this part of the building has an equal title to be ſeen with its oppoſite ſide. The weſt-end of the chapel is particularly fine, and yet is ſo ſurrounded and choaked up with buildings, that few people, who go to view the caſtle, know any thing of this part of the chapel, though it unfortunately happens to be the principal entrance; if (as there ſeems to have been proviſion made for ſome ſuch deſign), an elegant Gothick dome, ſuitable to the whole, was raiſed in the center of this building, it would greatly add to the dignity of the chapel, and take off from the length of the line which the roof makes at preſent; ſuch an elevation would greatly enrich the appearance of that part of the caſtle, and produce a fine effect in the diſtant view of the whole. The inſide of this chapel is extremely fine, and the greateſt attention ſhould be given, in order that it may not be deformed: The common abſurd practice of placing trophies againſt the columns, and of erecting monuments up and down this elegant pile, is an execrable cuſtom, unleſs it was done with more propriety; indeed this is an abuſe too frequently intruded into all places of publick worſhip, and muſt be entirely owing to the want of taſte in thoſe who have the management of church-affairs, and permit ſuch things to be carried into execution. If the deſign of a church is good for any thing, it is ſure to be ruined by this practice, which never fails of deſtroying its regularity; whenever a monument is propoſed to be erected, the utmoſt care ſhould be taken that the deſign ſhould ſuit the place, and by that means ſerve as an ornament to the whole. There is but one inſtance where any attention ſeems

to

to have been paid to this kind of decorum, and this is to be ſeen in the two monuments erected to the memory of Sir Iſaac Newton and General Stanhope in Weſtminſter-Abbey, theſe are happily placed, and make a fine finiſh upon the ſcreen in that Cathedral, which would otherwiſe have made a miſerable appearance. The cuſtom of erecting monuments in churches at all is an abſurdity, but the practice of deforming churches merely becauſe people can afford to pay a large tax upon vanity, is intolerable, and if the real worth of ſome, who figure it in holy places, was ſtrictly enquired into, many a heap of beautiful marble, and exquiſite art, would be unanimouſly thruſt out of them as publick nuiſances.

Publick memorials of truly great and deſerving perſons ought undoubtedly to be erected, and as the love of fame is an univerſal paſſion, every incitement for promoting it ſhould be encouraged and attended to. With this view therefore, publick mauſoleums ſhould be erected to honour publick virtue and learning; in theſe the great and good ſhould alone find places, and as a ſubordination ought to be obſerved in theſe kind of edifices, it might not be improper to erect one for the ſole uſe of ſuch as had no other pretence for perpetuating their memories, than that they exiſted a certain number of years, and died worth a certain ſum of money. This laſt propoſition is the more to be attended to, as the excluſion of this kind of people would be of infinite prejudice to a great number of ingenious artiſts, who, without ſuch aſſiſtance, would have little or nothing to do, and it certainly would be no very great burden to the publick, if they were to be at the ſole expence of erecting ſuch teſtimonies of regard for the memories of thoſe who really merited places in the principal mauſoleums. It may be ſaid, that the mauſoleum of wealth and vanity muſt either greatly exceed the others in magnitude, or elſe be better filled; the truth of this obſervation would certainly be verified; but let it be conſidered, that what was denied in numbers, would be amply recompenced in value, and that the contemplation of the tomb of one truly great or valuable man would yield abundantly more ſolid ſatisfaction, than the pomp and glare of a vaſt number of monuments erected to the memories of a multitude of inſignificant people.

Windſor-Caſtle is a building, or rather a compoſition of buildings, of vaſt magnitude, and the idea it gives at a diſtance, is more that of a romantic than an elegant pile, nor does it loſe this character upon a nearer approach, the towers give it an air of grandeur, but there is not the leaſt degree of elegance to be found in their conſtruction, or indeed in that of any other part of the caſtle itſelf; however, the vaſt quantity of building, and its prodigiouſly advantageous ſituation, ſerve to render it altogether one of the moſt ſtriking objects in this or perhaps any other part of the world.

The lodge in Windſor Great-Park, as a building, is as much beneath the dignity of the park it ſtands in, as that is ſuperior in to St. James's-Park, the ſituation is extremely ill-choſen, and the building worſe contrived. It is amazing when ſo many ſpots, infinitely ſuperior to it, preſented themſelves, that any one ſhould make ſo bad a choice, but it has been built a great number of years, and it cannot be doubted, if ever a new lodge is erected in that park, that a better ſituation will be choſen. A vaſt ſum of money has been expended already in improving the park, but much remains to be done; the place itſelf might be made extremely fine, nature has done a great deal, and has pointed out ſufficiently what may be improved and beautified by art; upon the whole, this place does not at preſent come up in any degree to the character uſually given it.

Hampton-Court-Palace is in point of ſituation the very reverſe of Windſor-Caſtle, the laſt is upon a noble eminence, and the former upon a dead flat; in this reſpect its ſituation is extremely bad, it commands no proſpect, and therefore is rather a gloomy melancholy place; it is compoſed of Roman and Gothick architecture, and the principal fronts are the grandeſt and moſt regular of all the Royal Palaces; the two outer courts are Gothick, and are magnificent things in their kind, with this farther advantage, that they are all clean and unincumbered with trifling buildings. This Palace is a ſtriking inſtance of the diſadvantage of low ſituations, let the building be compoſed in the grandeſt ſtile imaginable, it will always ſuffer for want of a proper aſcent, and Hampton-Court-Palace, or any other building ſituate upon a flat, will always appear

when

when viewed at a diſtance, as if it was partly ſunk into the earth. Undoubtedly, low ſituations ought carefully to be avoided, wherever elevated ones can be procured, and many very elegant houſes have been utterly ruined, eſpecially when built too near the borders of a river, in doing which ſuch errors have been committed as cannot eſcape even the notice and ridicule of the vulgar. An inſtance of this kind occurred ſome time ago to a gentleman who came by water from Richmond to London, and, in his way, could not help taking particular notice of a very elegant houſe upon the banks of the Thames; the fellow who rowed him, ſaid, 'Ay, Sir, it's a very fine houſe, an't it? but I knew, when they laid the foundation, that every time the floods were out, the water would come into the houſe; and pray, ſays the gentleman, as you were not ignorant of this, why did not you acquaint the builder in time, and thereby prevent ſuch a misfortune? ah! Maſter, replied the fellow, ſhaking his head, I knew well enough as how the builder was an ignorant man, and ſo would have his own way, becauſe why, ſuch people always thinks nobody knows nothing but themſelves.'

Richmond New-Park is perhaps one of the fineſt ſpots of its kind in Europe, the beautiful variety of landſcapes it every where exhibits, the order in which it is kept, the bold ſimplicity and inequality of the ground, which is finely diverſified into hills and vallies, richly decorated with elegant trees, and above all, the noble and extenſive proſpect which the higheſt parts of it command, are beautiful beyond imagination. Upon the ſummit of the hill next the town of Richmond, and near the park-gate, there is a ſpot, which, of all others perhaps in this kingdom, is the moſt deſirable place to erect a Royal Palace upon, the richneſs and extenſiveneſs of the views on every ſide are amazingly fine, but two of them exceed the others, and perhaps all others; the one takes in the cities of London and Weſtminſter, with the adjacent hills of Harrow, Hampſtead and Highgate, and the oppoſite ſide fronts the beautiful winding of the Thames from Richmond to Twickenham, and commands all that glorious landſcape ſo univerſally admired by perſons of the greateſt taſte and underſtanding. There is but one obſtacle in the way, which, no doubt, would be very eaſily removed, and that is, if a deſign of

this nature was to be put in execution, it would become neceſſary to take in all that part which lies between the park-wall and the village of Peterſham; ſuppoſing this to be done, a grand approach might be formed from the river to the front of the Palace in the midſt of a moſt beautiful lawn; the opening of this from the Thames and the meadows would have a prodigious fine effect, and as the ſides of the hill are covered in the moſt pictureſque manner imaginable, the finiſh of a palace built with ſtone *, upon the ſummit of the hill, would produce one of the fineſt ſcenes that can poſſibly be conceived; add to this, that a magnificent bridge might be thrown acroſs the river, directly fronting the Palace, which would be a uſeful ornament, and render the whole view ſtill more pictureſque, and the eye would command from the Thames, the intire elevation without interruption.

Richmond Gardens have been generally allowed to be extremely fine, and they, in a great meaſure, deſerve the character given them; the terrace is perhaps as grand and as fine an object of its kind as any in Europe; but this is without doubt the fineſt part of the whole garden, take this away and you deſtroy all the reſt, there is queſtionleſs room for great improvements in theſe gardens, but without an enormous expence, the ground, cannot be raiſed which every part of the garden itſelf points out as wanting. The greateſt proof of this want of variety, (owing to the flatneſs of the ſituation,) is, that not a place in it can be found on which one would wiſh to ſee a ſuperb edifice † erected, becauſe every one would be ſenſible, that, if it was done, it could command no other view than that of Sion-Houſe, and the wretched one of Brentford, which every man of taſte would ſincerely wiſh could never be ſeen at all, for of all deplorable country towns this is the worſt, and is ſtill the more deſpicable, as it might be made one of the moſt agreeable places upon the banks of the Thames. It is amazing to think what encomiums have been

* It is ſurpriſing that ſtucco-fronts are not more frequently introduced, eſpecially in the country, as it is not very expenſive, agrees well with ſtone, and, being covered with blue ſlate, harmonizes in the moſt agreeable manner with trees and all degrees of verdure.

† It is ſaid that the ſituation of the preſent Palace, which was built by the Duke of Ormond, is ſo extremely damp in winter, that the wainſcots are commonly covered with water.

paſſed

paſſed upon Richmond Gardens, and what multitudes have flocked to ſee them, when, at the ſame time, the moſt beautiful ſpot in the kingdom the New-Park, has been totally neglected, and not one perſon in a thouſand, of thoſe who go to Richmond, is acquainted with the leaſt part of it, they are commonly contented with a walk upon the terrace, a view of the Hermitage, &c. and then proceed to the hill, where indeed there is a moſt noble entertainment for the eye, but this is the ſum of their ſtock of curioſity, and the moſt beautiful and romantic part of the whole is never thought of, and conſequently totally neglected.

The Princeſs Dowager's houſe would certainly appear to a prodigious advantage, if the oppoſite buildings were entirely removed, and the whole opened to the Thames with a fine lawn, in which caſe the ſtabling in front ſhould be removed, and the whole finiſhed in character; Kew-Bridge would appear in a pictureſque manner, but much more ſo, if the anatomy of the bridge was concealed, it is certainly very abſurd, as well as prejudicial to the timbers, to expoſe theſe kind of ſkeletons, which ought to be covered as far as the bottom of the railing. A fine entrance might alſo be made from Kew-Green to Richmond Gardens, by taking down the old buildings, which would open the view to Sion and Iſleworth from the Princeſs's houſe in a moſt advantageous manner.

It is a great pity that the late Lord Burlington's houſe at Chiſwick had not been laid open to the Thames, indeed when the lowneſs of its ſituation is conſidered, it would be impoſſible to view it in the advantageous manner it could be wiſhed, and as the beauty of that building deſerves. With due ſubmiſſion to the taſte and reſpect to the memory of that nobleman, it is not a little ſurpriſing how he could be induced, by the trifling conſideration of preſerving a taſteleſs old building, to ſacrifice ſo very elegant a deſign by connecting them together. Had his lordſhip raiſed the ground conſiderably on which the foundation was to be laid, what a fine effect would have been produced, the houſe which is now almoſt entirely hid, might have been ſeen to great advantage from every quarter, and the whole country round, which is a taſteleſs flat, would have made a very different appearance by the elegant break which this fine object would have given it. Upon the whole, this

celebrated

celebrated houſe is a convincing proof of the diſadvantage of building upon low ſituations, as by this means neither the houſe, nor the place on which it ſtands, are advantageous to each other, the building is not ſeen, nor the country improved, in point of appearance, from its being erected at all. Indeed it is very abſurd to build any houſe of conſequence in a low obſcure ſituation, or to encumber or hide any ſuch buildings with brick-walls, hovels and trifling offices, which is too frequently practiſed, for ſpace always gives an air of grandeur.

Chelſea-College is a ſimple, noble and elegant building, and very properly adapted to its uſe, it wants nothing but an elevation of about eight or ten feet, which would keep it free from damps, and conſequently make it more healthy and comfortable for the people who inhabit there; it is rather incumbered with houſes, and if the high brick-walls that ſurround it were taken away, and dwarf-walls with iron-rails ſubſtitued in their room, the whole would have a better effect.

The whole village of Chelſea might be greatly improved by regulating the banks of the Thames, and removing the buildings which ſtand immediately upon them; the church, which is very old, ſhould be rebuilt, and removed ſomething farther back from the river; the houſes built in country places ſhould always be detached, for the benefit of air, light, and proſpect, and not built in rows according to the preſent taſte, nor ſhould they be ſuffered to project one before the other; if this method was obſerved, every houſe would be ſituated in a garden, and the whole would be chearful and pleaſant; but, above all things, the houſes ſhould be raiſed upon a baſement, which will always keep them ſufficiently dry, and make the lower apartments light and airy.

Greenwich-Hoſpital is undoubtedly the grandeſt building in England, the two pavilions next the water were deſigned by Inigo Jones ‡, and the reſt of the buildings with the fine colonades were the work of Sir Chriſtopher Wren; this grand edifice, of which not the leaſt part ſhould be hid, is encumbered with brick

‡ The original drawing by Inigo Jones of one of theſe pavilions without the attick, was in the poſſeſſion of Stephen Wren, Eſq; who ſhewed it the author. This attick, which was added by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, rather deforms the building, but being a work of neceſſity could not be diſpenſed with.

walls

walls and a great number of miſerable houſes, all which ſhould be immediately deſtroyed and not be permitted to deform and diſgrace a work ſo truly magnificent. If any other fault can be found with Greenwich-Hoſpital it is that it wants a proper center, which has been often obſerved, and likewiſe that its ſituation is rather too near the river, and the ground it ſtands on too low; an inconvenience which hinders it from being ſeen to advantage any where but upon the Thames †.

The ſpace occupied by the peers and ſterlings of London-Bridge is conſiderably greater than that allowed for the paſſage of the water, conſequently more than half the breadth of the river is in this place entirely ſtopped, whereas the obſtruction occaſioned by the piers at Weſtminſter-Bridge is not near one third of the water-way, and it is needleſs to mention the effects of this obſtruction, ſince the moſt melancholy inſtances are too frequently experienced to need a repetition. The truth is, this wretched bridge ought to have been entirely demoliſhed ages ago, and a greater miſtake never was committed than that of making the late repairs and endeavouring to improve ſo intolerable a nuiſance, the execution of which has manifeſtly proved its abſurdity, ſince the main deſign of thoſe improvements (which was to leſſen the fall at the ebbing of the tide) has by experience been entirely defeated, and ſhews that the beſt repair that could poſſibly have been made was to have taken it entirely down. Indeed at the time when it was become neceſſary to add the ſterlings in order to preſerve the foundation of the piers and prevent the ſuperſtructure from falling, at that very

† It certainly was a very ſtrange abſurdity to beſtow ſuch extraordinary expences on a building deſigned for charitable purpoſes, and ridiculous to ſee a parcel of maimed, decrepid old paupers, its inhabitants, parading up and down the grand colonades. Chelſea-College anſwers every intention of its endowment there is an elegant ſimplicity in the whole, without a profuſion of expence in the decoration; but that heighth of magnificence in Greenwich, one would almoſt imagine had been intended merely to put real elegance out of countenance; and the reaſon given for building Groſvenor-Square in that irregular and confuſed manner we now ſee it, was, that if regularity had been more conſidered, it would too much have reſembled an Hoſpital: A ridiculous argument, ſurely, for ſpoiling the uniformity of ſo noble a quadrangle.

time

time the whole bridge ſhould have been demoliſhed, and rebuilt in an elegant and commodious manner, and the money which at that time was expended in piling and ſecuring it, and the annual ſums which it has ſince coſt in repairs, excluſive of the laſt enormous one, would have been more than ſufficient to have defrayed the expence, and had the leaſt attention been given at that time to this conſideration, it muſt have been a ſufficient motive for rebuilding the bridge *. It has been often ignorantly aſſerted, that the arches of this bridge were originally conſtructed in the manner they are, in order to reſtrain the ebbing of the tide, to preſerve the navigation of the river above the bridge; others have with like ignorance and confidence ſaid, that if the arches of the bridge were widened, the tide would ebb away ſo faſt that there would be ſcarce any navigation above the bridge a little after high-water; that is, it would be low-water much ſooner than it is at preſent, and thereby the navigation would be hindered. This laſt aſſertion is ſo very abſurd that it is ſcarcely worth mentioning, for had theſe objectors once conſidered that the river is navigable ſo very far above the reach of the tide, they would never have thought of advancing ſo wretched an argument. In fact, a new bridge, as has been before obſerved, was abſolutely neceſſary in this place, and ſhould have been built inſtead of repairing the old one, this would, beſides the preſervation of many lives have reflected honour upon the city of London, have very conſiderably improved the navigation of the river, and been a moſt noble and uſeful ornament; inſtead of which an immenſe ſum of money has been thrown away, the bridge itſelf is left a greater nuiſance than it was before (owing to the prodigious rapidity of the ſtream under the great arch) with this additional aggravation, that it will very probably, be continually calling in the aid of quackery, remain a perpetual expence for a conſiderable time, and a ſtanding reproach to the preſent age, which by no means deſerves ſuch treatment.

* The preſent alteration of London-Bridge coſt near 100,000 l. 75,000 l. part advanced by parliament at five times, and 7, 500 l. part of 24,000 l. remainder allowed to have been expended in that alteration, beſides the materials of the houſes, many of which were new.

The pariſh of St. Magnus conſiſted of about one hundred and five houſes, eighty of which are deſtroyed for opening the avenues and clearing the bridge.

It appears upon the further conſideration of this great nuiſance, that (as if the miſerable contrivance of the bridge itſelf was not impediment enough to the navigation) it is moſt terribly encumbered with the engine for raiſing water, which occupies no leſs than four arches, the effect theſe works have upon the navigation therefore is very conſiderable, beſides the ſhocking appearance they make as an object. It is propoſed therefore to take this whole machine entirely away Such a propoſal will undoubtedly be thought extravagant by ſome people, and the profit accruing to the proprietors of the water-works will be objected as an obſtacle, but as it is apprehended that the chief part of the revenue ariſing to the London-Bridge water-works is produced from the Borough of Southwark, it is propoſed to bring the river Wan from Mitcham in Surry to the Borough, which, as it is but a ſmall diſtance from London, may be eaſily done, and at no very great expence; Bromley river might alſo be made to ſupply Deptford and Rotherhithe, and the New-River Company might ſupply all that part of the city of London which is now ſerved by the London-Bridge water-works. It may be likewiſe objected, that the New River will be inſufficient to ſupply the whole metropolis, in anſwer to this it may be ſaid, that the New River is certainly capable of ſupplying the whole quantity wanted; but as it may not be ſo conveniently done, there is another great reſource for the ſupply of this very uſeful element. There is reaſon to hope the river Coln will be made navigable from Uxbridge, and brought to Mary-le-Bone; which will more than ſerve all the new buildings and parts adjacent, as well as the city of Weſtminſter. It has been objected to this laſt very uſeful ſcheme (and ſome objection will eternally be made to every deſign for the publick good) that the navigation of the river Thames will be prejudiced by the want of the water which this ſcheme will direct from its uſual courſe; but this has been before fully refuted by the obſervation that the river is navigable for the weſt country barges many miles higher up than at the place where the Coln falls into it, and therefore its waters are of little conſequence to the navigation of the river Thames. There is one conſideration above all the reſt that ought

to be attended to, which is, that whilſt the ſupplying of water is chiefly in one company's hands it becomes a kind of monopoly, and has this danger attending it, that the proprietors of the works have it in their power at any time to lay whatever tax they pleaſe on the inhabitants.

But the greateſt clamour will ariſe from the enormous expence which it will be ſaid muſt neceſſarily attend the execution of the ſchemes for bringing theſe two rivers to London, to this it may be anſwered, that the nobleſt and moſt uſeful undertaking of this kind that ever was executed is now carrying on by one Nobleman at his own expence; the Duke of Bridgwater's navigable canal in Lancaſhire, is a work that not only does him honour, but would do honour to this or any other kingdom in the univerſe.

As there is the greateſt probability that St. George's-Fields will one time be laid out in ſtreets, it becomes neceſſary to give ſome timely hints with regard to the diſpoſition of this place. The extreme lowneſs of the ſituation of the ground naturally makes it damp, and conſequently unhealthy; in order to remedy this great inconvenience it will be neceſſary to make the ſtreets not leſs than ſixty feet wide; nor ſhould any alleys be ſuffered, the ground ſhould be raiſed as much as poſſible, and it is to be lamented, that after the fire of London they had not made a layſtall in St. George's Fields inſtead of that at White-Chapel and other places. Large drains ſhould be cut to carry off the water, and thoſe arched over and made into common-ſhores; this would in a great meaſure keep the foundations dry. But above all, as free air is conducive to health in all places, ſo more eſpecially in this caſe it would be neceſſary, and therefore a vaſt area ſhould be formed which ſhould not be leſs than two thouſand feet ſquare; in the midſt a large baſon ſhould be ſunk, which would be extremely uſeful on every account, ſerving at once as a drain and a reſervoir of water in caſe of fire; this area might be laid out in ſuch a manner as to be made a place of publick reſort for people in that quarter of the town, and would be healthful, pleaſant and uſeful.

It has been before obſerved in the courſe of this work, that too little attention has hitherto been given to the obtaining of ſpace

and

and giving freedom to the air; a more ſtriking inſtance of the bad effects of this neglect cannot be given, than in that of St. Paul's Church, the members and ornaments of which in many places are entirely choaked up with ſoot, which misfortune is owing to its being pent up with buildings. Wherever ſea-coal is burnt the ſtreets ought to be made ſpacious, more eſpecially in low ſituations, for the damps naturally prevent the ſmoke from riſing, and conſequently if the ſtreets are narrow the wind has not power to diſperſe it properly.

If Hatton-Garden was continued through Cold Bath-Fields towards the New-Road, it would be a prodigious improvement to that ſtreet, as well as to the adjacent parts; if this alteration was to take place, it would be neceſſary to raiſe the ground in the hollow parts to a level, which might be eaſily done, as the ſpace required for this purpoſe would hardly exceed two hundred feet.

It is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that when Black-Fryars Bridge is finiſhed, the Fleet-Market will be removed to a more convenient ſituation. In this caſe it is to be wiſhed, that a ſtreet equal in width to that in which the market now ſtands ſhould be opened and continued from Holborn-Bridge in a direct line to Clerkenwell, or further, and then to divide into two openings, one to Iſlington and the other to the Hampſtead-Road. It will immediately occur to every one who has the leaſt knowledge of the places through which this ſtreet is propoſed to be conducted, that private property will be amazingly improved by this means, nor will the publick be leſs benefitted, as a noble, free and uſeful communication will be opened between the counties of Surry and Middleſex. At the ſame time another uſeful opening might be made from Old-Street in a direct line to Gray's-Inn-Lane, which would alſo improve a part of the town which is at preſent in a deplorable condition. If the former part of this propoſal ſhould ever be put in execution and the market in Smithfield be ſuffered to remain, it will be extremely uſeful, on account of the opportunity it will give paſſengers to avoid that inconvenient dangerous place, as no one need paſs through it whoſe buſineſs does not demand their attendance there. But although very few houſes of conſequence will be affected by

this alteration, it is much to be doubted whether it will ever be attended to, as the citizens generally ſeem to be averſe to every kind of improvement of which they cannot ſee the future advantage.

Weſtminſter Abbey, as it is a very fine Gothick ſtructure of great beauty and antiquity, certainly demands a ſtrict attention. That venerable pile, which has ſeen ſo many Monarchs crowned within its walls amidſt the acclamations of ſhouting multitudes, and afterwards born its ſilent and awful teſtimony of the ſad funeral rites of thoſe very Princes, ought undoubtedly to be kept and ſupported in a proper manner, nor ſhould the leaſt impropriety or want of decorum be ſuffered in a pile ſo venerable and majeſtick. It may be thought ſevere to ſay, that it is deformed by monuments, but however ſevere ſuch an aſſertion may be thought, it is nevertheleſs true. The beauty of the whole pile is deſtroyed by theſe intruſions, and however ſublime and beautiful ſome of theſe works may be in themſelves, hardly one of them has been introduced with propriety, or its form and ſituation conſidered with regard to the whole ſtructure. Some are leſs faulty in this particular than others, but numbers of them ought to be entirely taken away, as tending to nothing more than loading and deforming the church in the moſt wretched manner; but there is an abſurdity in this abbey which is yet more unpardonable, more taſteleſs, more abſurd, and a greater piece of deformity than either or all the monuments in the church together, this is no other than that disjointed, unconnected attempt at magnificence, the marble altar; there never was any thing more abſurd than the thought of decorating a Gothick building with Greek or Roman architecture, manners ſo eſſentially different that it is utterly impoſſible there ſhould ever be the leaſt harmony ſubſiſting between them. The truth is, the preſent altar ought by all means to be taken down and the whole thrown open to the eaſt end of the abbey, which is in itſelf very fine and perfectly adapted to the purpoſe; this part ſhould be decorated in the Gothick taſte, ſuitable to the reſt of the building, and would have a much more noble effect than that miſerable thing which at preſent blocks up and deforms the church.

A propoſal for the removal of the ſhrine of Edward the Confeſſor, may by ſome people be looked upon as a ſacrilegious attempt, but it is plain, from the wretched appearance it now makes, that even the religious themſelves have not ſcrupled in part to put this ſcheme in execution, by depriving it from time to time of every decoration which could ſerve to render it an object worthy of notice, and inſtead of permitting it to ſtand in its priſtine form, the memorial of a ſaint and martyr, it ſerves for very little more than to ſhew that ever ſince the time it was erected, there have not been wanting people who were either fooliſhly ſuperſtitious or wickedly wanton. It would be therefore doing no great harm if this mutilated lump of antiquity was diſplaced on account of ſo elegant an improvement, and it would not be very difficult to find a more ſuitable place for it, if it was judged neceſſary or profitable, to preſerve this precious relick; this and the tomb of Henry the Fifth therefore ſhould be removed. The floor of the chapel of Edward the Confeſſor is raiſed conſiderably above the pavement of the church, which gives a fine opportunity for making a flight of ſteps, and what a noble effect that would have, not only upon the altar but the whole church may be very eaſily conceived. At the ſame time the church would be vaſtly improved if thoſe mean ſtalls in the choir were taken down, and others more ſuitable to the dignity of the place erected in their ſtead; the choir might alſo be widened by throwing the ſtalls back upon a line with the middle of the columns; this would give it a proportionable width to the length which would be gained by the removal of the altar. The whole pavement of the church is in a miſerable ſtate, and ſhould be relayed, and whenever any repairs are made in the building every particular whatever ſhould be reſtored as near as poſſible to its original form, and it is great pity that the whole cathedral is not put into a more reſpectable condition. There ſeems to be ſomething very extraordinary relating to the doors of this cathedral, the original deſign of which certainly made ample proviſion for the conveniency of going into and coming out of it, but by ſome unaccountable whim or accident it is not without difficulty that people can now get either in or out, particularly at the north door, where to

all

all appearance one would not expect an impediment of that ſort ſhould occur, but ſo it is; whereas if both thoſe ſide doors (or only the middle one) were thrown open, theſe obſtructions would ceaſe, but unfortunately one of the ſide entrances is choaked up by an uncouth monument, and therefore rendered uſeleſs on account of a thing which is itſelf an incumbrance, as indeed are all thoſe on the north-eaſt angle of the cathedral, as well as thoſe on the ſouth-weſt, which jointly concur to ſpoil and ruin the uniformity of the whole building.

From what has been already ſaid it appears, that to render this ancient ſtructure truly elegant, it is neceſſary to repair the pavement thoroughly, to remove the altar, to widen and enrich the choir by ſuitable Gothick ſtalls decorated in character with the reſt of the church, to enlarge the entrances, and to demoliſh or remove a great number of wretched monuments, add to all this, that if every window was ornamented with painted glaſs, an elegant light Gothick dome raiſed from the nave of the church, and the whole inſide of the building painted of an uniform clean ſtone colour, in the manner that St. Paul's church is, it would then become a moſt beautiful pile, and be deſervedly eſteemed one of the fineſt things of the kind perhaps in Europe.

The whole of Henry the Seventh's chapel, both external and internal, is ſo extremely fine and ſo exquiſite a model of Gothick architecture, that it is ſincerely to be wiſhed no modern hand might ever be ſuffered to touch it, but as the teeth of time have already deſtroyed many parts of its exterior ornaments it ought to be repaired before it is too late, but with a moſt ſcrupulous adherence to its original form, not an ornament or ſingle member ſhould ſuffer the leaſt alteration, and if it was poſſible to build a caſe for the whole to prevent all further injuries, it would be doing no more than this amazing piece of art richly merits. As to the interior deſign of this building, let the admirers of Grecian and Roman architecture impartially and critically examine the roof, meaſure and re-meaſure the parts, let them draw them over and over, and when they have conſidered, and re-conſidered the whole as

oſten,

often, and found as many faults as they pleaſe, let them produce, either from themſelves, or from the moſt celebrated antique examples, a roof of the ſame dimenſions, equally light, rich, elegant and magnificent, or equally pleaſing and harmonious. Whatever merit the Gothick deſigners had, or however exquiſitely their thoughts were executed, it muſt be confeſſed, and ought to be lamented, that the Goths their ſucceſſors have treated them in all reſpects moſt unworthily; whether it is owing to the prodigious refinement of taſte, or whether envy has had any ſhare in ſuch treatment, cannot ſo readily be aſcertained; but certain it is, that every age has concurred in contriving by all poſſible means to confuſe, confound and deform the works of thoſe ingenious people; nor is the celebrated ſtructure now mentioned without examples of ſuch uſage, the more modern Goths have diſfigured it in the moſt ſhameful manner, with ſuch things as might well enough become a Lord Mayor's ſhew, but are in this place both mean and contemptible, every one who has ſeen this chapel will know that the deformities complained of are thoſe ſkull caps, ſwords and banners which are ſo plentifully ſtrung all over the place, and which, excluſive of ſpoiling the effect of the building, ſerve only to convey the idea of a place inhabited by ſcourers, who uſually hang out a variety of tawdry ſuits and rags upon poles, which ſerve the double purpoſes of drying them and proclaiming to the world the profeſſion of the perſon who thus expoſes them to view.

It is eaſily perceived, that the two fronts of the building, called The Horſe-Guards, at Whitehall, are the deſigns of different people; it is ſaid, that Kent made that next the Park, in which however there is nothing extraordinary, and it ſhould ſeem that nobody cares to own the other, which ſhews, that whoever deſigned it, was a man of great prudence, though he had no kind of merit as an architect; indeed it is impoſſible that any thing can be worſe, it is not in the leaſt adapted to its intended uſe, for the entrances to the interior courts are ſo very ſmall, that a ſingle trooper can hardly get in or out. The principal entrance into the park is ſo notoriouſly mean and pitiful, that it would be only loſing time

time to make any further mention of it. The foundation of this building ought to have been raiſed five or ſix feet, the dampneſs of which demanded ſuch an help, which is plain from the neceſſity of a contrivance which has been ſince made to keep the tide out, of this the builders could not be ignorant while at work upon the foundation, becauſe the water came into the works every tide; however, inſtead of raiſing the foundation, they very wiſely, after the building was compleated, took away a vaſt deal of ground from the Parade, in order to give the ſtructure, an air of elevation, which it evidently wanted, and ever muſt want while the building remains, and conſequently made that part of the ground lower which was already too low. Perhaps it would have been better to have raiſed the foundation as before mentioned, and to have formed the whole by two large ſquares of three ſides each, one to front the park, and the other the ſtreet, with piazzas all round, for the convenience of the ſoldiers in bad weather. In the center of theſe two ſquares, which ought to have extended the whole width of the Parade, a capital entrance might have been formed in the ſtile of a triumphal arch, of a proper heighth and magnitude ſuited to the nature of the place; there might have been two ſpacious quadrangles, one on each ſide large enough to have drawn up the Guards within, and not in the open ſtreet, which, being ſo great a thoroughfare, is an inconvenience that ought to be remedied. Theſe quadrangles might have contained ſuttling houſes, by which means thoſe nuiſances of proviſions, which are ſold to the ſoldiers, would have been prevented from making their appearance in the ſtreet, and deforming it, which is at preſent the conſtant practice. The buildings ſurrounding the quadrangles might have been applied to the uſe of ſome publick offices, and there might have been room found for a military academy and other uſes; it is preſumed, this deſign would have produced a noble object to the park and ſtreet, and have been ſuitable to its uſe and ſituation.

As to the interior parts of this building, they are worſe, if poſſible, than the exterior, the windows of ſome of the lower apartments are contrived in ſuch a manner, that the light, inſtead of coming

coming from the top of the room, is admitted at the bottom; the head of a man is even with the top of the windows, this conſequently produces a large heavy ſpace from the upper part of the ſaſh to the cieling, which conveys a gloomineſs to the whole apartment: Indeed, moſt of the modern buildings are of this caſt, and within have rather the appearance of dungeons than of houſes, inſtead of conveying chearful ideas by giving light, they rather convey thoſe of ſubterranean caverns; this is occaſioned by the unaccountable practice of making the openings of the windows ſo very ſmall, that they more reſemble port-holes than openings for the admiſſion of light. By this, houſes are made melancholy, which certainly is a great impropriety in this country, where the weather is for half the year dull enough; certainly a cheerful looking houſe, in ſome meaſure, contributes to make thoſe who inhabit it ſo; it is an eaſy matter to ſhut out light, if too much has been given, but it is not ſo eaſy to give more when too little has been provided.

It is rather ſurpriſing, that the proper enlightening of houſes has not been more attended to. It does not wholly depend upon the openings of windows, but, in ſome degree; on ſituation whether high or low, and if in towns, whether the ſtreets are wide or narrow; there is alſo a difference produced by the aſpect of the windows. Another error which contributes towards making rooms dark, is the making them too deep, whereas they ſhould be rather wide, and the worſt of all is, that of dropping the windows too low from the cieling, to which is often afterwards added a feſtoon-curtain, which is effectually making bad worſe, and ſpoils the finiſhing of an elegant room. In ſhort, where it can be done, as in the forming of new ſtreets, regard ſhould be had to the height of the intended buildings, allowing ſpace enough to give a free admiſſion to the light, that is, ſuch a width as would allow the ſky to be ſeen from the windows of the lower apartments over the tops of the oppoſite houſes *.

If

* No ſtreet ſhould be narrower than where two carriages may conveniently paſs, with proper foot-paths on each ſide, and if the heights of houſes were regulated it would be an advantage both in reſpect to light and appearance. The elevation of

If the windows in modern houſes are ill contrived the entrances to them are equally bad. Formerly a nobleman's houſe was marked by a large entrance, and the decorations generally proclaimed to whom it belonged; but modern taſte allows no ſuch thing, it is now become the faſhion not to make the leaſt diſtinction between the doors and the windows, and it is not without difficulty the way into ſuch a houſe can be found, an inſtance of this ſort is notorious in the deſign of a houſe not long ſince finiſhed for a perſon of great diſtinction, but there are numberleſs others of this ſort to be met with in London.

As nothing but the univerſality of bad taſte could poſſibly give countenance to the foregoing errors, it is not very much to be wondered at, that ſuch a variety of abſurdities are produced in building, dreſs, equipage and furniture *. The deſcriptions given by travellers of the buildings, habits, cuſtoms and manners of diſtant climes, if they are well written, and aſſiſted with lineal repreſentations, are ſufficient ſurely to ſatisfy a curious enquiring mind in all thoſe particulars, without running into the abſurdity of putting them in practice in a climate rendered by nature totally unfit for their introduction; it is certainly ridiculous for the Engliſh to adopt the Chineſe manner of building, but Chineſe buildings have for ſome time paſt been introduced with ſucceſs, and it would be no great matter of wonder, ſhould it continue much longer in vogue, if we ſhould adopt their dreſs alſo, in that caſe we might hope to ſee the Park and publick gardens crowded with mandarines, and a particular order of Ladies carried about by Chineſe porters, who, as is the cuſtom in that country, might proclaim their occupation. With the utmoſt reſpect to the taſte of the Engliſh

buildings that form the ſtreets might be made elegant and uniform, though with great variety, and any number of windows given to a houſe. The new manner of paving gives a determined and regular line to build from.

* Perhaps the bad taſte which at preſent prevails in furniture is chiefly owing to the practice of employing the perſons who build houſes to furniſh them, this is very commonly done, but ſurely it cannot be expected that people who have no taſte in building ſhould have any in decoration, in fact it is beneath the profeſſion of an architect to undertake the ſeveral profeſſions of a cabinet maker, upholſterer, braſier, &c. theſe are diſtinct employments, and by no means his proper buſineſs, ſo far as the mere deſigning part is concerned, it may be allowable; to deſign and ſuperintend ought to be his ſole buſineſs.

Ladies,

Ladies, nothing can be more trifling or ridiculous than to ſee a modern chimney-piece ſet out with joſſes and ſuch horrid monſters, which can have no other charms to recommend them than deformity, a high price, and their being the production of a very remote country. The paſſion for incongruity, falſly termed variety, and for impropriety, as falſly called taſte, has induced a gentleman of fortune to make four iſlands in a piece of water in his garden, in each of theſe are erected buildings, (it is preſumed they are called temples) one of them is Chineſe, another Egyptian, a third is Turkiſh, and the fourth Roman, and to compleat the abſurdity, this elegant hodge-podge is ſo contrived as to be ſeen at one view. Certainly this is a childiſh taſte, and extremely unbecoming the character of the Engliſh nation, who are eſteemed by foreigners as a grave philoſophic people, they muſt certainly laugh when they ſee us thus ſervilely and ridiculouſly adopting the cuſtoms and manners of other countries. It would undoubtedly be truly abſurd and ridiculous, if becauſe it is the cuſtom for Indians to wear bobs in their noſes we ſhould alſo wear them in ours, and indeed it would be pleaſant enough to hear and ſee our publick orators ſnuffling out their harangues through the encumbrance of ſo elegant a foreign ornament.

The great number of hoſpitals and burying-grounds or churchyards in this metropolis are extremely diſagreeable, and ought by all means to be baniſhed to proper places at a convenient diſtance from it.

There is no doubt but ſeveral objections will be made to many of the propoſals for the publick advantage, which take up a great part of the foregoing work, more eſpecially thoſe which relate to the city, to which it can only be anſwered, *the greater will be the misfortune*, and the author can only conſole himſelf with the reflexion, that many perſons have met with as little regard as himſelf in propoſals of a ſimilar nature. He cannot have more reaſon to complain than others, the citizens rejected Sir Chriſtopher Wren's noble plan, and ruined the diſpoſition of the city. They petitioned

againſt the new bridge at Weſtminſter, but did not ſucceed, and againſt that at Black-Fryars, with the ſame ſucceſs. They did the ſame againſt the intended ſtreet oppoſite the Manſion-Houſe, and unfortunately ſucceeded. They attempted to hinder the repairs of London Bridge, and were again unfortunate, and ſome among them have ſtrenuouſly argued againſt the beſt ſcheme that ever was thought of for the improvement of any city, that for paving, lighting and cleanſing the ſtreets like thoſe of Weſtminſter, but happily without effect. However it is to be hoped that the age will grow wiſer by degrees, and that they will learn to take every opportunity for the future to promote the publick good.

OMISSIONS.

Conduit-Street is opened into Carnaby-Market and Marlborough-Street.

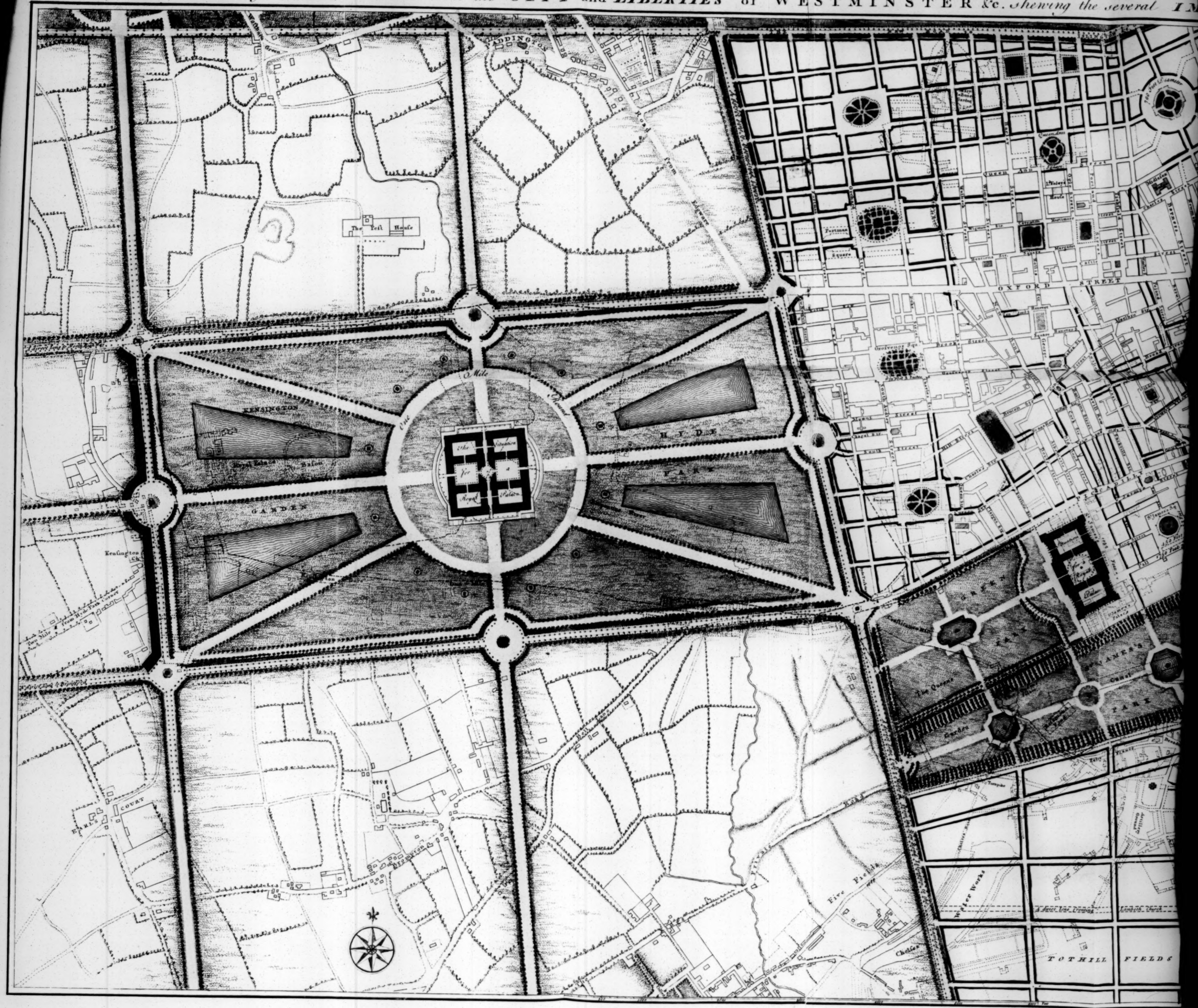
Vine-Street is continued into Piccadilly.

If the propoſal of Windmill-Street, &c. ſhould take place, the market for hay, now a nuiſance to the neighbourhood, ſhould be removed to ſome more convenient ſpot for the purpoſe, as it would become a much greater thoroughfare than it is at preſent.

As farther improvements, to thoſe already offered, relative to Tower-Hill, a handſome ſtone parapet, baluſtrade, or iron rail, ſhould be erected all round the outward line of the ditch, inſtead of thoſe mean wooden ones, that are now there, which are ever ſubject to decay, and by their weakneſs and frequent want of repair, have often proved fatal to many. That the ditch ſhould be always kept clean and covered with water, and the whole ſurface of the hill, be properly levelled. Theſe improvements would certainly be very uſeful and commodious, as well to the publick as the inhabitants, and make one of the nobleſt openings about London, and be of conſiderable conſequence and advantage to the proprietors of the ſeveral buildings that ſurround the hill, moſt of which at preſent are of little value.

FINIS.

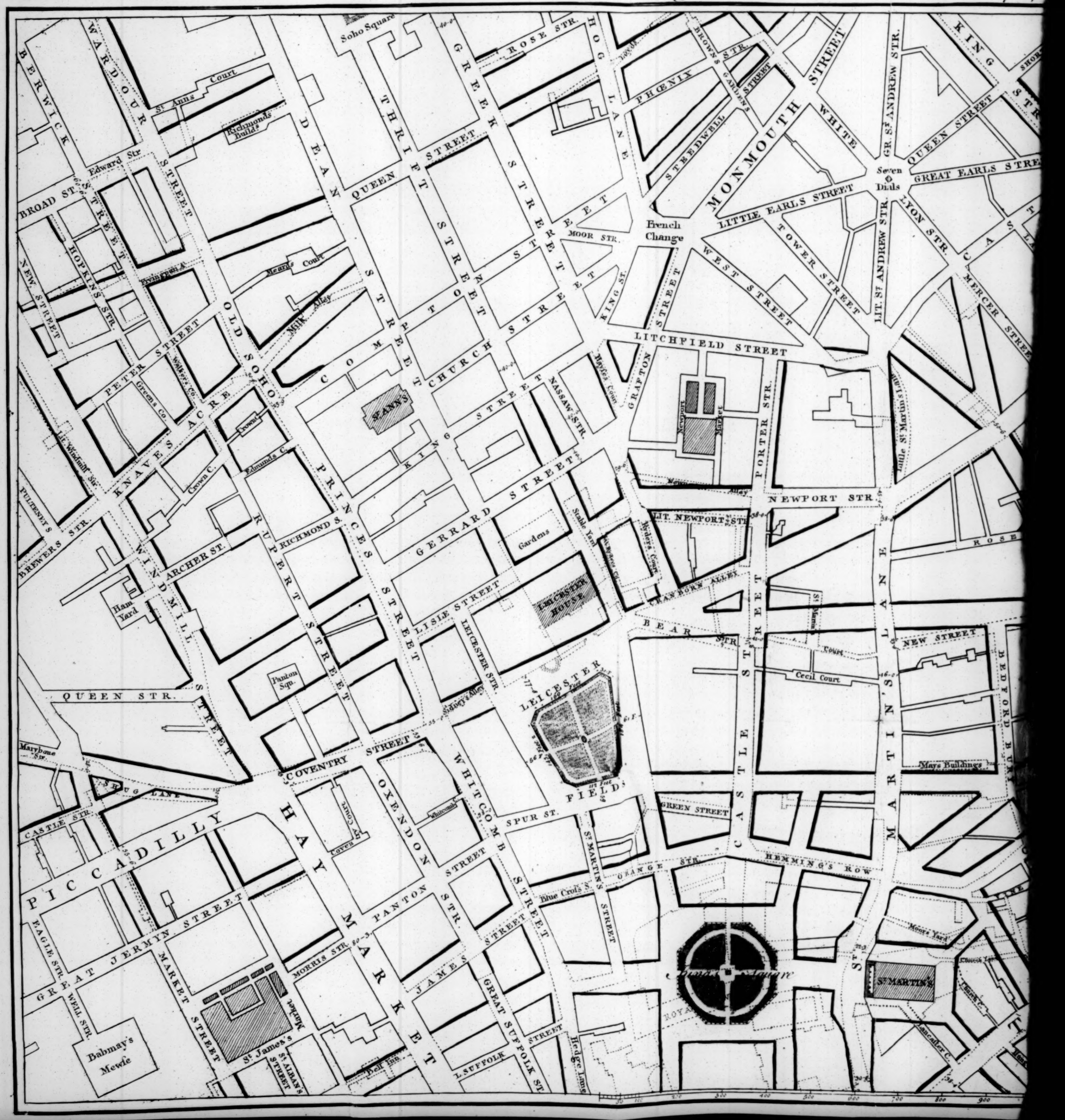
A PLAN of **HYDE-PARK** *with the* ***CITY*** and ***LIBERTIES*** of **WESTMINSTER** &c. *shewing the several* **IM**



Pl. I.

R &c. *shewing the several* IMPROVEMENTS *proposed* ( ).

PART of WESTMINSTER at large *shewing the* IMPROVEMENTS *propo*



Pl. II

...proposed about LEICESTER-FIELDS, COVENT-GARDEN, the MEWSE &c.

THAMES

St. Georges Bridge

Avenue or public Quays from Bridge to Bridge

DRURY LANE

STRAND

COVENT GARDEN

Covent Garden Market

ST. MARTINS STREET

GREAT WILD STREET

DUKE STREET

STANHOPE STR.

VERE STR.

WHITE HORSE YARD

CATHERINE ST.

YORK STR.

BRIDGES STR.

STRUTTS LANE

BURLEIGH STR.

SAVOY

Fountain Co.

Beaufort Buildings

CECIL STREET

SALISBURY STREET

ROBERT STREET

ADELPHI TERRACE

GEORGE STR.

BUCKINGHAM STR.

DUKE STREET

VILLIERS STREET

CHANDOIS STREET

HENRIETTA STREET

KING STREET

MAIDEN LANE

Half Moon Str.

Ball Inn Court

New Hound Co.

BEDFORD BURY

BEDFORD STREET

SOUTHAMPTON STR.

TAVISTOCK STREET

CHARLES STR.

RUSSEL STREET

BOW STREET

HART STREET

JAMES STREET

CROSS LANE

LANGLEY STR.

LITTLE

MERCER STREET

CHARLES STREET

HANNOVER STR.

NEW BELTON STR.

SHORTS GAR.

BROWNLOW S.

George Yard

Coach Co.

Court

Duke's Head

Nottingham Court

Eagle Co.

Clare Court

Bishop Co.

Fountain Court

Beaufort Court

Half Moon Court

Mays Court

Ship Yard

Ship Court

Ship Inn

Ship Co.

Ship Yard

Ship Co.

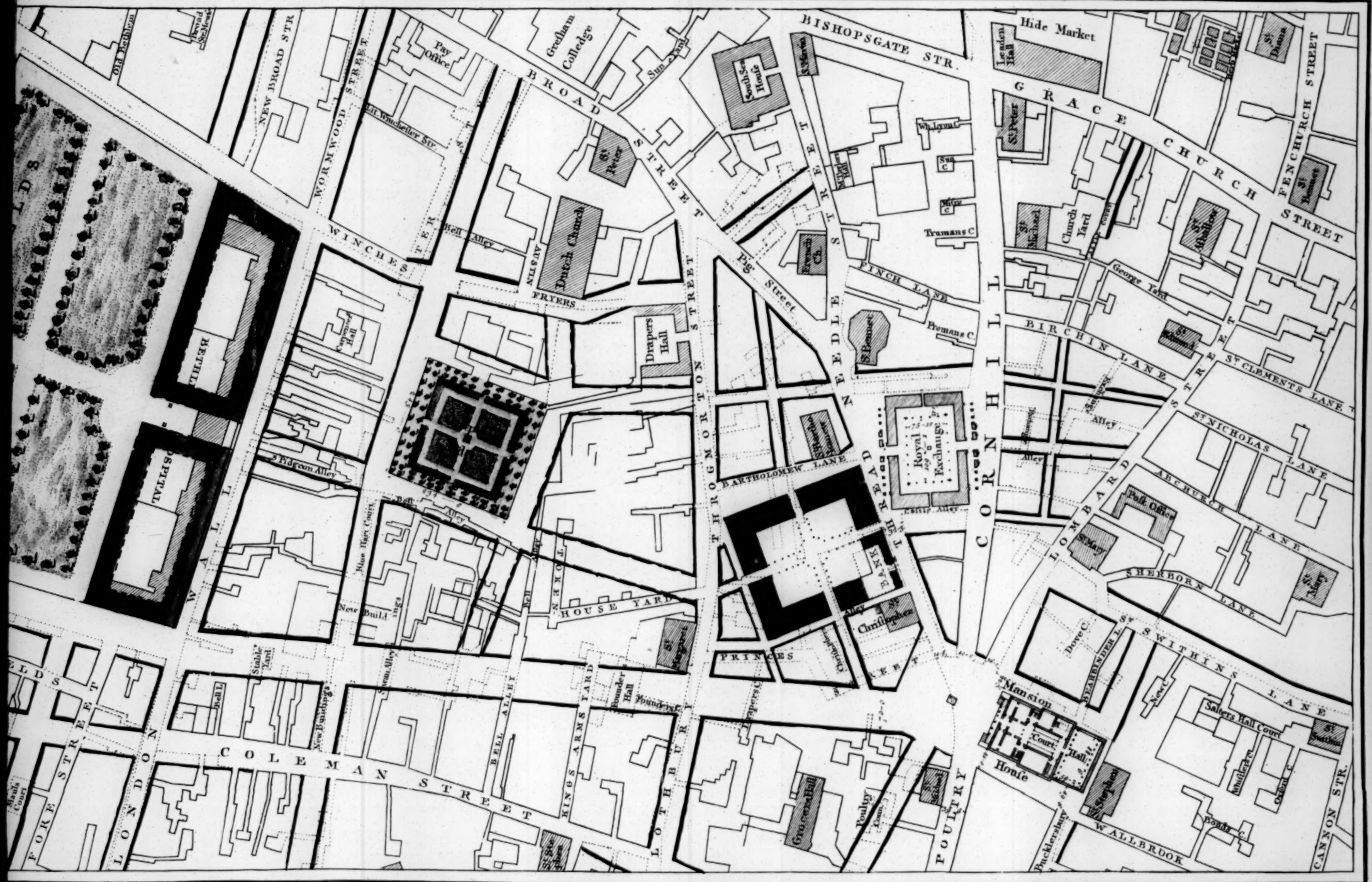
Ship Yard

Ship Co.

Ship Yard

PART of LONDON shewing the IMPROVEMENTS propos'd about the MANSION-HOUSE

HOG LANE
PRINCES STR.
KING STREET
LONG ALLEY
Hors Shoe Alley
Old Bedlam
NEW BROAD STR
WORMWOOD STREET
Pay Office
Gresham Colledge
BROAD
Mr Wheeler's Sty.
Bell Alley
Dutch Church
AUSTIN FRYERS
UPPER MOOR FIELDS
MIDDLE MOOR FIELDS
MOOR FIELDS
BETHL. HOSPITAL
Cannon Hall
Pedgam Alley
Blue Hart Court
New Build.
HOUSE
Stable Yard
Swan Alley
Bell
New Buildings
Bell Alley
KINGS ARMS YARD
Bounder Hall
Whitsmith Roll
Royal Row
ARTILLERY GROUND
Finsbury Yard
FINSBURY
LITTLE MOOR FIELDS
CHISWELL STREET
BUNHILL ROW
ROPE MAKERS ALLEY
ANGEL ALLEY
Maids Court
FORE STREET
LONDON WALL
COLEMAN STREET


BISHOPSGATE STR.
Hide Market
Leaden Hall
GRACE CHURCH STREET
FENCHURCH STREET
BROAD STREET
NEW BROAD STR
WORMWOOD STREET
Old Bedlam
Broad Sanctuary
Pay Office
Gresham College
Sun Yard
South Sea House
St Peter
Whalgrave C
Sun C
Mitre C
Truemans C
Dutch Church
Austin FRYERS
Bell Alley
Bit Winchester Str.
WINCHESTER
Pig Street
French Ch
FINCH LANE
Bremans C
St Benet
Drapers Hall
THROGMORTON STREET
LEADENHALL STREET
BIRCHIN LANE
ST CLEMENTS LANE
ST NICHOLAS LANE
ABCHURCH LANE
ST HERBORN LANE
Alley
Church Yard
George Yard
Bedford Alley
Blue Hart Court
Bell Alley
NEGG
HOUSE YARD
New Buildings
Royal Exchange
BARTHOLOMEW LANE
BANK
Christopher
PRINCES
Dove C
Mansion House
Court
Hall
Salters Hall Court
ST SWITHINS LANE
Stable Yard
Swan Alley
New Foundery
Bell
KING'S ARMS YARD
Powder Hall
Foundery
LOTHBURY
Grocers Hall
Poultry
Poultry C
Buckles bury
WALLBROOK
CANNON STR.
COLEMAN STREET
FORE STREET
LONDON WALL
BETHLEM
HOSPITAL
Alley

PART of LONDON shewing the IMPROVEMENTS proposed about LONDON-BRIDGE, &c.

THAMES

RIVER

Cattle Wharf

Iron Gate

Pickle Herring St.

TOWER

EAST SMITHFIELD

LITTLE TOWER HILL

GREAT TOWER HILL

ROSEMARY LANE

MINORIES

WOODRIFF LANE

CRUTCHED FRYERS

TOWER STREET

GREAT TOWER STREET

ST DUNSTAN

NAVY OFFICE

ALDGATE

PL. III.

OVEMENTS proposed about LONDON-BRIDGE, the CUSTOM-HOUSE, TOWER &c.